

California State Archives  
State Government Oral History Program

Oral History Interview

with

**GLADYS W. SARGENT**

Lobbyist

February 28, March 9, 16 and 23, 1989  
Oakland, California

By Jacqueline S. Reinier  
Oral History Program  
Center for California Studies  
California State University, Sacramento

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## PREFACE

On September 25, 1985, Governor George Deukmejian signed into law A.B. 2104 (Chapter 965 of the Statutes of 1985). This legislation established, under the administration of the California State Archives, a State Government Oral History Program "to provide through the use of oral history a continuing documentation of state policy development as reflected in California's legislative and executive history."

The following interview is one of a series of oral histories undertaken for inclusion in the state program. These interviews offer insights into the actual workings of both the legislative and executive processes and policy mechanisms. They also offer an increased understanding of the men and women who create legislation and implement state development in California state government and of how both the legislative and executive branches of government deal with issues and problems facing the state.

Interviewees are chosen primarily on the basis of their contributions to and influence on the policy process of the state of California. They include members of the legislative and executive branches of the state government as well as legislative staff, advocates, members of the media, and other people who played significant roles in specific issue areas of major and continuing importance to California.

By authorizing the California State Archives to work cooperatively with oral history units at California colleges and universities to conduct interviews, this program is structured to take advantage of the resources and expertise in oral history available thorough California's several institutionally based programs.

Participating as cooperating institutions in the State Government Oral History Program are:

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University of California, Los Angeles

The establishment of the California State Archives State Government Oral History Program marks one of the most significant commitments made by any state toward the preservation and documentation of its governmental history. It supplements the often fragmentary historical written record by adding an organized primary source, enriching the historical information available on given topics and allowing for more thorough historical analysis. As such, the program, through the preservation and publication of interviews such as the one which follows, will be of lasting value to current and future generations of scholars, citizens, and leaders.

John F. Burns  
State Archivist

July 27, 1988

This interview is printed on acid-free paper.



GLADYS W. SARGENT

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## INTERVIEW HISTORY

### Interviewer/Editor

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### Interview Time and Place:

February 28, 1989  
Home of Gladys Sargent in Oakland, California  
Session of one hour

March 9, 1989  
Home of Gladys Sargent in Oakland, California  
Session of one hour

March 16, 1989  
Home of Gladys Sargent in Oakland, California  
Session of one and one-half hours

March 23, 1989  
Home of Gladys Sargent in Oakland, California  
Session of one and one-half hours

### Editing:

Reinier checked the verbatim manuscript of the interview against the original tape recordings, edited for punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling and verified proper names. Insertions by the editor are bracketed. The interviewer also prepared the introductory materials.

In June 1989 Mrs. Sargent was forwarded a copy of the edited transcript for her approval. Mrs. Sargent extensively edited pages 1 through 40 and 74 through 230. She gave Reinier permission to edit pages 41 through 73.

### Papers

The papers of Pets & Pals are located in Mrs. Sargent's home in Oakland, California, and were available for Reinier's research.

### Tapes and Interview Records

The original tape recordings of the interview, records pertaining to the interview, and draft of the edited transcript are in the University Archives, The Library, California State University, Sacramento. Master tapes are preserved in the California State Archives.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Gladys Sargent was born on December 16, 1899, in San Francisco, California, and one of her first vivid memories is of the 1906 earthquake. After that devastating event, her family moved down the peninsula to Burlingame where she attended the public schools and San Mateo High School. In 1921 Gladys took a position as secretary to the Oakland tax accountant, D.A. Sargent, whom she married two years later. The Sargents made their home in Oakland and Gladys became a prominent member of East Bay society, joining the Oakland Women's Athletic Club and Opera League, and arranging fund-raising events for Oakland Children's Hospital and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. In 1946, she founded her own organization to befriend abandoned animals, Pets & Pals, and began raising money through memorable fashion shows, auctions, and "Putting On the Dog" parties. By 1955 Pets & Pals was able to build an animal shelter in Contra Costa County, which continued until 1975 to train, pay veterinarians to spay and neuter, and place for adoption homeless cats and dogs. Over the years Pets & Pals has expanded to include branches in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, and Los Angeles and to contribute to a shelter in Galt and operate another in Lathrop, California.

Gladys began to lobby on behalf of animals in Sacramento in the early 1950s, and through the years her winning ways and trademark hats have made her a beloved figure in the Capitol. Her early efforts included legislation to provide humane slaughter of food animals and to prohibit coloring baby chicks for Easter. By the 1960s she became a close friend of Speaker of the Assembly Jesse Unruh and successfully lobbied for legislation to outlaw killing bears with steel traps, to make "dognapping" a felony, and to prevent dog racing from becoming established in California. Successes of the 1970s included prohibiting vivisection by school children and her first "puppy mill" bill, against the breeding of dogs for sale in pet shops.

Although Gladys knew little about lobbying when she arrived in Sacramento, she discovered she was well suited for the endeavor, and through the years has learned tactics and made friendships that have served the animals well. Stories about Gladys abound in the Capitol. At the age of ninety, she is still going strong, making the rounds of legislators and foiling her competitors as she seeks support for her current efforts to regulate pet shops, prohibit "puppy mills" and eliminate unnecessary research on animal subjects.

[Session 1, February 28, 1989]

[Begin Tape 1, Side A]

REINIER: You just had a birthday in December--December  
16.

SARGENT: Can you believe that I'm eighty-nine?

REINIER: Almost ninety years old.

SARGENT: I can't believe it.

REINIER: So you were born in 1899. . . .

SARGENT: At the end of December. So I go along with the  
years; that's why I can't forget my birthday.

REINIER: So you've decided now to own up to when your  
birthday is?

SARGENT: Yes! See, I was going around with younger men  
because I love to dance. And dancing up a storm  
and going to the Superbowls, etc. So I didn't  
want anybody to know how old I was. And I was  
looking, everybody says, younger. So then I got  
looking older, I guess, and I had to [own up to]  
it. And then somebody found out my age. So,  
it's no use kidding myself any longer.

REINIER: So you decided to admit it?

SARGENT: Yes, I decided. I thought when I got ninety I'd

have to. I can't believe I'm almost ninety; it's unbelievable. Everybody says I'm real alert for my age. So I'll have to be satisfied with that.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: And hoping that I can still dance because I'm a real good dancer. When the New Orleans Jazz Band comes to San Francisco once a year, they send for me to dance on the table at Stern Grove in San Francisco.

REINIER: I saw a picture of you dancing on the table at the Stern Grove to the New Orleans Jazz Band.

SARGENT: There's been a lot of publicity on it. The last time I went to the Superbowl in New Orleans, last year (just before I had my accident), I danced at their headquarters in New Orleans to the New Orleans Jazz Band, and had all kinds of people peeking through the windows, etc.

REINIER: Is that why you got the commendation from the Governor of Louisiana?<sup>1</sup>

SARGENT: No. I got that--nothing to do with the dancing--because, number one, I'm the only woman partner of the Raiders, which is now the [Los Angeles]

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<sup>1</sup>Res. signed by Louisiana Governor David Treen making Gladys Sargent an honorary staff member of the secretary of state (January 23, 1981).

L.A. Raiders. And also I just happened to meet the governor and was in his box at the football game. Well, the first time [Governor David] Treen--I can't remember why he gave it to me--we got friendly. And I think because of my lobbying which he heard about and that I was there staying at the Hilton, Baron Hilton being a friend of mine. And then, you know, having some interest in the Raiders, he and I became friends. In fact, I just heard he's running for something, I think, in Louisiana again. I don't know whether he's won or not, whether to be senator or congressman from there. The last time I saw him was at a party in New Orleans, a luncheon for Jack Kemp. You know Jack Kemp ran for president. In fact, [President George] Bush had just made him head of [U.S. Department of] Housing [and Urban Development], I think.

It was a party for Jack Kemp in New Orleans and I remember sitting at Treen's table, who had been the former governor. And he wanted to be sure I'd come back to New Orleans and have lunch with him. I didn't remember to do it last time I was in New Orleans. But, the next Superbowl that is in New Orleans (which will be in 1990) I'm going to try to remember that.

Then, the next governor--I forget his name now--I met his daughter and was in a box with him at a football game in New Orleans, not his own box, but one of the owners of the New Orleans Saints, and we became friends. Then when her father found out who I was, he sent me one of those certificates.<sup>1</sup> Have you seen those certificates on my walls?

REINIER: I did see those certificates. That was Governor Edwin W. Edwards.

SARGENT: Yes. He got in trouble but he got absolved. So now there's a new governor that I haven't met, I believe.

REINIER: I see. Well, you know Gladys, maybe we should go back and get a little bit more background on you. You come from a San Francisco family.

SARGENT: Yes. My father was John [David] Williams and he was a partner in Carroll & Tilton, one of the top, I guess the top, men's furnishing stores. I mean a big one, not just furnishings but suits, etc., one of the big men's stores on Market Street in San Francisco. But they were burnt out during the fire and earthquake.

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<sup>1</sup>Res. signed by Louisiana Governor Edwin W. Edwards making Gladys Sargent an honorary staff member of the secretary of state (January 25, 1986).

REINIER: You're talking about the fire after the earthquake in 1906, aren't you?

SARGENT: That's what I meant.

REINIER: In 1906, yes. Before the earthquake where did your family live?

SARGENT: They lived in San Francisco.

REINIER: Do you remember the street?

SARGENT: I can't remember the name of the street. I can almost see the house, and I know it was on a hill. Of course, Fillmore Street wasn't the terrible place it is now, but it seems to me it was out that way, towards the end of Market Street. Was there a tunnel out there then? I don't think there was.

REINIER: Probably not.

SARGENT: It wasn't an apartment, but it was like two flats. We lived in one flat, and it was called Roman something or other. Then a few blocks away my aunt owned a big apartment house right off Market. In fact, it's still there.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: Great big bay windows. It was one of these streets just off of Market before the tunnel, I believe, Noe Street.

REINIER: Did you have brothers and sisters?

SARGENT: I had one brother. He was very delicate and he



died. I was just six years old and I had just started to school; he hadn't yet. And they said I got everything, like measles--I just heard there's a measles epidemic now someplace; where is it? In Texas or someplace. Anyway, I'd get all these things, but they wouldn't bother me much. I'd get measles and get right over them. But he'd get them from me. And he was very delicate and he died.

REINIER: How old was he when he died?

SARGENT: I imagine around four or five. I think he died just before the earthquake.

REINIER: What was his name?

SARGENT: I don't remember. As my family said, he was too good to live. He was like a little angel; he did everything just perfect. I didn't, I guess.

REINIER: He was younger than you?

SARGENT: No. My mother said he didn't want to go out and play with kids. He just wanted to help her. He wanted to do everything just perfect. See, it was just as if he never should have been on this planet, like he was just a little angel.

REINIER: After his death, then, you were raised as an only child?

SARGENT: For a short time and then twins were born and one died. Then after the earthquake we moved to

Burlingame. My aunt and uncle gave up their apartment too, and moved to Burlingame to what they called Easton Station; it's now part of Burlingame. It's between Burlingame and Milbrae. My aunt and uncle didn't have any children and it was just like a second home to me; they had a house on the main street from the railway station, which is now evidently all business. My single aunt lived with my married aunt who had no children. A grocery store opened in Easton--I can't remember the name of the street; it's one of the main streets of Burlingame now--the Warbles owned the store and their son married my single aunt.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: And then my aunts and uncles gave up their house and moved up in the hills of Milbrae. Each had a different home there. And we lived in Burlingame. This was just the beginning of Burlingame; I can remember we didn't have any sidewalks. My father would come home from San Francisco on the train--we didn't have an automobile then--and he'd come home covered with mud from the unfinished streets.

REINIER: It was real country . . .

SARGENT: . . . And the first school I went to was like a

little shack. I can remember this boy, evidently just visiting someone because he came to school just for fun. And he was doing terrible things, upsetting the whole school. We had a teacher named [ ] Gunderson. This school was just one story, and if they went to reprimand him, he'd climb out the window. It was rafters up at the top of the room. One day he got up in the rafters and when teacher Gunderson came in--he used to call her gun powder--he threw gun powder down on her.

REINIER: Do you mean real gun powder?

SARGENT: I think so.

REINIER: For heaven's sake.

SARGENT: Oh, he did terrible things. Then I had a long, blonde braid and he put it in the ink well. Every time they'd try to reprimand him he'd just climb out the window and go home. I don't know whatever happened to him.

REINIER: Were all the grades together in the school?

SARGENT: No, there were several rooms. I guess I must have been in either the fourth or fifth grade. Then they later built a school, which is still there, up on El Camino Real. (Yes, honey; he's all right there. He chases the cats, so the cats stay with him.) We used to skate to

school, and I loved to skate.

REINIER: Rollerskate?

SARGENT: Yes, I rollerskated to school. It was quite a way from my home to this new school, so I'd rollerskate to school. A whole group of us--can you imagine on the El Camino Real with all those cars now?--eight or ten, would rollerskate in a line across the middle of El Camino Real.

REINIER: So Burlingame at that time was really just a developing suburb of San Francisco.

SARGENT: Yes, hardly anything there.

REINIER: I was curious, do you remember the earthquake at all? You were only about six years old.

SARGENT: I can remember that I was sleeping in a folding bed. (Down! You don't want me talking to the dog, I guess. BJ!) Way at the top was a great big cut glass punch bowl. It was evidently way back, but on top. And from what I either remember or I was told, when the earthquake came, it awakened me. Although the building didn't fall down, it was leaning on the building down the hill. I don't know whatever happened about the building, because we stayed in a park and then we moved to Burlingame and built a house there. But, evidently, that punch bowl jiggled right to the edge over my head. My

father came running and stood in the doorway afraid to touch me for fear if I moved, the punch bowl would fall on my head. He said it would have killed me. So, he just stood there.

I do know that as soon as the earthquake was over, my father went down to the store to see how things were. He said he took off his good suit, put on some overalls because the place was a mess. Stuff was all on the floor, off the shelves. So he was putting the store in order when the fire started. It started, I think, at the foot of Market Street, near the store. He got word all of a sudden; he didn't have time to even get his suit. They just told him to get out fast; and the store burned.

REINIER: Do you remember the fire at all?

SARGENT: No. I can't remember what happened then, except my mother was very ill. She had a very bad case of small pox. There was a small pox epidemic before the earthquake. She had one of the worst cases and they wanted to take her to what they called the pest house. Hardly anyone recovered, so my father wouldn't let her go. Our house was in quarantine, but I guess they forgot all about that when the fire came.

My father came home, and I don't know where

he found a horse and wagon. He had sacks of flour and anything else he could get, staples and mattresses, and put my mother and me in the wagon. I think my brother had already died. Then my aunt and uncle came from their apartment house. My uncle was just out of the hospital because he used to get bad cases of poison oak. They put him and my mother on mattresses, took all the staples, and my aunts and all of us went to the park and slept out for about five nights or a week. I did know the name of the park, but have forgotten. It wasn't all the way out to Golden Gate Park.

REINIER: Did you have a tent?

SARGENT: No, evidently not. Just slept on the mattresses. And all kinds of people there. And my aunt, watching the fire, would say, "There's my pictures burning, the furniture, silver, everything." When she returned, the apartment was all there. That was a big story, because many big buildings were being dynamited to stop the fire. They put a rope across Van Ness and Market Street on the lower side, and they told everybody in the apartment they would have to be ready to leave at a moment's notice because if the fire crossed the street, they were

dynamiting the apartment.

REINIER: If the fire crossed the street.

SARGENT: Yes. It went to that corner and burned half the building and never crossed. So her apartment was all there when my aunt came back.

REINIER: And your house, was it intact also?

SARGENT: I don't know what happened to ours. Evidently, we were just renting it; so, evidently, we gave it up. We must have taken our belongings. This is the part I remember. When we came back from the park, we were at my aunt's apartment. And this is the other thing I don't hear other people talk about. You couldn't use any gas or electricity; I guess it was all off. So you had no heat and no way to have a fire to cook, and we didn't eat much raw food then. So, people took their stoves and put them on the tracks on Market Street. Now that's something you don't hear about.

REINIER: On the cable car tracks?

SARGENT: Yes.

REINIER: I've never heard that either.

SARGENT: My father and a doctor friend--our doctor was very close to us. Isn't that funny, I can remember his name, Dr. [ ] Brackett, and I haven't seen him in years. I don't know whether

he lived near us, but he was eating with us--I can't remember his family--and my father built a kitchen, I can see it now, out of gunny sacks. And they took their utensils and cooked out there. Now what they did for water? I think they had to go--water was rationed--and get buckets of water.

And there were people walking up Market Street, fleeing the fire from lower Market Street. They were coming with brooms, with crazy stuff. There was one woman with a canary cage. I don't know where the poor bird was; she just had the cage. You know, anything they'd grabbed, just to grab something.

REINIER: Because their homes were destroyed.

SARGENT: Yes, all lower Market Street, the lower part of the city, was burned up to Van Ness and part of Van Ness, the one side. I guess that's as far as it went.

REINIER: Then the earthquake is really why your family moved to Burlingame.

SARGENT: Yes.

REINIER: Did your father reestablish his store in San Francisco?

SARGENT: Yes, they opened it on Market Street again. I don't know whether it was in the same place.



And he just went back and forth on the train.

REINIER: The Southern Pacific?

SARGENT: Yes. And we had quite a ways to walk from the station. I can remember the first car; we didn't have the first automobile. My father had a partner in Carroll & Tilton, and Mr. Tilton died. I'm not sure if it was Carroll or Tilton, but I'm pretty sure it was Tilton. His widow was very fond of my father and they were very wealthy. She had one of the first cars and they used to come to Burlingame nearly every weekend and take us in the car. It's too bad, my [half brother Elsworth Williams] brother sold my mother's house and most of those pictures are gone. There were pictures of me with my little bonnets with feathers. No wonder I like hats because my married aunt (who didn't have any children) took millinery lessons in order to make me fancy hats. So I had all kinds of little hats with feathers, etc.

REINIER: So your love for hats really started when you were a child?

SARGENT: Yes, and there were all kinds of pictures with my father showing me off and the car and the family with all the veils tied on in the open car.

REINIER: What kind of car was it, do you remember?

SARGENT: I think it was a Packard, but I'm not positive.  
A big open one, so we'd get blown all to pieces.

REINIER: What kind of a house did your father build in  
Burlingame eventually?

SARGENT: Well, it wasn't a great big place, but it was  
very nice. I can remember the panels in the  
dining room and living room; it was sort of  
like this [her present house]. But the panels  
were just gorgeous wood; I think he had it  
imported. Then I think, there were three  
bedrooms and only one bathroom. We didn't used  
to have extra bathrooms in those days, I don't  
think.

REINIER: And it was your mother and father and you who  
were living there?

SARGENT: And then my mother had a son, my half-brother.  
I don't think my father was my real father. I  
wasn't going to tell you this, but I'm pretty  
sure--and it's my fault for not looking it up--  
my father was from one of the old established  
families in San Francisco. I wasn't going to  
tell all this stuff, because I may be, what do  
you call it?

REINIER: Wrong? Libelous?

SARGENT: No, illegitimate. I really think I am, but I

shouldn't tell that, should I?

REINIER: At this stage of the game what does it matter?

SARGENT: No, I guess it doesn't, but I really think that. My mother was a beautiful woman, was a model for the camera, what do you call it?

REINIER: A model?

SARGENT: Yes, but a special kind of a model for the camera. I forget what you call it.

REINIER: Like an artist's model?

SARGENT: Yes. They say that in some of the big photography stores in San Francisco, my picture was in all of those stores. She was to be married--I guess this makes me illegitimate--and his mother was disinheriting my real father. His family was in the real society. What did they call it then? They had one of the old families in San Francisco, the railroad magnates who really founded San Francisco (with the Chinese laborers, etc.). Well, evidently, my father was part of one of those families.

REINIER: Do you know which family it was?

SARGENT: No. This is the awful part of it, where I made a big mistake. My aunt gave me a clue; they didn't realize that I listened to everything. I see now I made a big mistake when I heard my aunt discussing my real father. And then my

mother, I realize now, kept after me to go to see a man (evidently my father) in his office. Isn't it too bad? I forgot the name! And I didn't follow instructions! My mother said she wanted him to see how beautiful I was. And I didn't go!

And I think, why didn't I do this? You know, I should have.

REINIER: Do you think maybe you were afraid. . . ?

SARGENT: I know what it was. It was the fact that my father just doted on me.

REINIER: Your step. . . , your mother's husband?

SARGENT: Yes. He just loved me and I loved him.

REINIER: What was his name?

SARGENT: John David Williams. And I thought I'd hurt him; he just loved me so much. I think he loved me more than he did my mother. I really feel, if this is true, that he married my mother for me. It's too bad I haven't the pictures. There were all kinds of pictures. He didn't care if my mother went out with him, but every weekend he wanted to take me. He'd carry me around on his shoulder; he took me to all kinds of activities at Golden Gate Park. All weekends he wanted to take me out. I took a lot of dancing lessons and I was in the May Pole

dances at Golden Gate Park. I thought, "If I go to see this man, I'm going to hurt the father I know." I didn't want him to know I suspected he was not my father. I never let anyone know that I ever suspected. Never let my mother know. I thought, "If I'm illegitimate, it's going to hurt my mother. It's going to hurt my father, and he's been so wonderful. I don't want him to think he's not my regular father." Now, isn't that kind of crazy?

REINIER: Isn't it remarkable?

SARGENT: It's quite different from other people wanting to know.

REINIER: Do you remember the date of their wedding?

SARGENT: No, I don't know that at all. So I'm not sure about all of this. And then when we were in Burlingame, a boy was born whom I think is my half brother. But he doesn't realize that. We're not close. I'm not ill-friends with him. And then twin girls were born.

REINIER: Oh, my.

SARGENT: And one of the twins died; so there's a half sister and a half brother.

REINIER: What are their names?

SARGENT: One is Elsworth Williams. He was in Berkeley, but I think he's with my half sister in Napa.

My husband helped her husband get started in business. He was a real nice young man, but he didn't have much money. My husband helped him go in the oil business, and from that he bought a half interest in a big furniture store in Napa.

REINIER: Which one, do you remember?

SARGENT: Yes, it's called Allen and something [Allen and Benedict]. He died since my husband died; he died a few years later, but he was younger. So my sister's still in Napa.

REINIER: Do you remember when Elsworth was born? About what year was he born?

SARGENT: I'd say he's about six years younger than me, five or six years.

REINIER: OK. So it was pretty much right after you got to Burlingame, about 1906.

SARGENT: Yes. It would be right after that. I can remember in Burlingame at that time was the McLellan--M-c-l-e-l-l-a-n--McLellan Nursery. That's become well known. And the McLellan boys, one of them, went to school with me, was my age. The other was a little younger. And the younger one [Rod McLellan] has become the orchid king of the country.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: Yes, because you hear the name McLellan with orchids everywhere. And their father had a tremendous nursery, big, I mean, in Burlingame.

REINIER: You know, we didn't get your sister's name, the twin that lived.

SARGENT: Doris, Doris Allen.

REINIER: Doris Allen.

SARGENT: And incidentally, there's an assemblywoman in Sacramento now, Doris Allen.

REINIER: But no relation?

SARGENT: No.

REINIER: So Burlingame was pretty much country then?

SARGENT: Oh, definitely. Mud, no sidewalks.

REINIER: Did you have any live-in servants in a family of that size?

SARGENT: I can just remember a Chinese fellow because I can remember telling my father that the Chinaman was spitting on the clothes. And my father said, "What did you say?" But you know what they used to do? He'd fill his mouth full of water and sprinkle the clothes.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: And I found out that's what they did.

REINIER: So he'd be ironing the clothes. He was doing the laundry?

SARGENT: Yes. Doing the ironing, that's the way he

sprinkled them.

REINIER: Fascinating.

SARGENT: And I heard other people did that.

REINIER: I never heard of that.

SARGENT: Fill his cheeks with water and sprinkle them.

So I told my father the Chinaman was spitting on the clothes. And then I can remember, years later, going to stay with some people in one of the oldest houses in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. I was just recently in Washington, D.C. to receive an award; I should have looked for the family in the old house. I don't mean as far as Virginia Beach, but just the outskirts of Washington. I'm trying to think of the name of the suburb. I can't think of the name of it. Anyway, I stayed with this navy officer's family and I had a letter of introduction to them. So, on my first trip to Washington, they took me out of the hotel, had me stay with them. And I just remember about this funny little house--it was supposed to be the oldest house in the suburb; it's quite a landmark--they had this negro woman doing the ironing. She was sitting down ironing. And I can remember I said to her, "I never saw anyone iron sitting down. I thought you were supposed to stand up and iron."



REINIER: Well, was she also spitting on the clothes?

SARGENT: I don't know. I can't remember.

REINIER: OK. I thought maybe that. . . .

SARGENT: I think that was just the Chinese.

[End Tape 1, Side A]

[Begin Tape 1, Side B]

REINIER: Would you say that your family was a middle-class family when you were growing up?

SARGENT: Yes. I think upper middle-class. One thing I can remember very distinctly was that my father was very much Republican. I have to laugh now because I have a different feeling about some of the Republicans today. Some of them don't vote for my animal bills, and I claim it's because they put the dollar before their heart, which I've told them in some of their meetings and when lobbying them. I can remember at the time though--and I tell them this--when I was a child, if you had a little money you were Republican, and if you were real poor you were a Democrat. Of course, it isn't like that today.

REINIER: That was really in the Progressive period, wasn't it?

SARGENT: Yes. And I can remember one of my husband's clients, very wealthy man. In fact, [Wayne] Valley started the Raiders with my husband. I

helped my husband at the office, and I'd seen his income tax and he'd made a lot of money. I remember the first time he came to my home I said, "You can't really be a Democrat." I can remember him saying, "Why not?" I said, "Because you have money." I told some of the Republican legislators that.

REINIER: That's great. When you were growing up, what were your interests? What did you like to do?

SARGENT: Well, I wish now that I'd been in more school plays, etc. because I wanted to be in all the dances. I can remember going to dancing school and wearing white gloves and other fancy clothes. The boys at dancing school wore white gloves so they wouldn't spoil our pretty dresses. I loved dancing school. And then I was in some dances. I can remember practicing with big, long, wreaths over our heads for a school play and doing all this and plays. But it was just the dancing, which I now wish I had done more of. I wanted to be a dancer. My family thought that was disgraceful. But, that was my main interest. And I can remember I'd go to basketball games on Friday nights at San Mateo High, not because I was interested in the basketball game, but because we did some dancing

afterwards. I can't remember much else about the games.

REINIER: Did you ever expect that you would work when you grew up?

SARGENT: I didn't know. Well, yes, because the last summer at San Mateo High, I liked bookkeeping and typing and I used to go to the principal's office and type his letters. One time I was taking a domestic class.

REINIER: Domestic Science?

SARGENT: Yes, sewing and cooking. I loved to cook, but I didn't like to sew. And I wouldn't clean up after doing the cooking, so that the teacher sent me to the principal's office. Oh, and I'll never forget, my mother liked to sew and I didn't like to sew. I remember making a night dress and I wanted something that you put ribbon through--like eyelet--and embroidery and lace. I couldn't find it together. So my mother bought it separate and sewed it all together, which was a big job, the eyelet and the embroidery and lace. She did all that and I took it to school. And the teacher thought I didn't sew it together. So she stands in front of the class--I'll never forget this; I was furious--and starts pulling it apart and says,

"This isn't done right." And I was furious. I stood right up and said, "My mother did that!" And teacher said, "That's just what I wanted to find out."

So she sent me to the principal's office and I didn't care. I said to the principal, "I don't care, as long as you let me type for you." So I'd sit in the principal's office and type his letters, etc. And then I took bookkeeping which I just loved; I kept my books very carefully. And I had a little office. I was running a little business--supposed to be--and mine was a model. So then, the last summer before I got out of high school--the bookkeeper at my father's business took a vacation and they were looking for a substitute--I begged my father to let me do the bookkeeping. So I worked for two weeks, and I did real good. I was the bookkeeper.

REINIER: At the store in San Francisco?

SARGENT: Yes.

REINIER: Wonderful.

SARGENT: And so then, in vacation, I took some jobs.

Then I was going to go to Stanford [University]. I thought it would be wonderful because there were hardly any girls there. It was all boys at

Stanford and it was hard to get in. I thought I was going to be accepted. Then my father for some reason, I don't know why, sold the house and moved to Berkeley. So I had to move. I was supposed to go to Cal [University of California at Berkeley], but I got married.

REINIER: How old were you when you got married?

SARGENT: I don't know. I guess I was about twenty-one.

REINIER: How did you meet your husband?

SARGENT: Well, that's a funny one. I was going with someone else. I can remember one weekend I had two girlfriends from Minnesota; I've lost track of them now. We'd been out Saturday night to a party, and one of them was staying with me (in Berkeley) overnight. And the next morning, I thought maybe I might like a job. And I started going through the paper looking at the want ads. And here was one for a secretary to an accountant. And it said interviewing today, Sunday. So I said, "Let's just for fun go for an interview." We'd been out late so my friend didn't really want to get up. But I finally got her up and we dressed and went to Oakland for the interview.

And we arrived at the building and I can see it now--isn't that odd?--standing near the

elevator. We had to wait because the accountant was interviewing some girl. And a brunette comes out, all smiles and confident, good looking girl. So I said to my friend, "Oh, she has the job. She looks like it. She's got it; we'll go home." And I remember my friend said, "For goodness sake, Gladdy, you got me out of bed to come down here. So now we're going to go in there. You'll have to go." And so I went in. I remember him giving me a great big financial report to type. I got it kind of mixed up. Later I did real model ones. But I was nervous; I got the figures in the wrong columns. So I thought, "I didn't get the job." I didn't need the job, so I said good-bye.

My aunt evidently was over visiting us, because I remember there was a big commotion. The next day, or that night, the accountant phoned and wanted to see me and said, "Come in Monday night." My whole family discussed it. "Oh, my goodness, she's not going to that office at night," my aunt and others said. And my father said, "Don't worry." (Now BJ, BJ, down! She doesn't want to kiss you!) And my father said, "Don't worry, I'll go with her."

Well, it turned out that the accountant I

married, D.A. Sargent, was almost a replica of my father. And that night they just clicked right away. So, the accountant had me sit down and do another report. I messed that up, I think, even more, but he hired me anyway. The next day the accountant called. I was going with another fellow. I started to work for the accountant who became my husband.

REINIER: You were just about twenty-one at this point?

SARGENT: Yes. And then I remember one night, well several nights, I'd go back to the office and work at night because I was just learning how to do the reports. I'd feel like I'd have to get the reports perfect. I can remember these reports; they were big sheets. You had to have all the numbers lined up. I took real pride in them. So I'd stay late to type. And I'd have a date to go out with the young man I was going with; he'd come to get me. And I remember one night he got real mad. He turned to me in the car and he said, "You're falling in love. You are falling in love with your boss, and your boss is falling in love with you." And I think that's the last time he took me out. He visited my mother a few times.

The next thing I remember, there'd be boxes

of candy and flowers on my desk. My husband was just getting started in business, so he had a small office with some other business. They were in insurance or real estate. And I remember having to go in to their rooms to get vases or water for the flowers. And I remember them saying to me, too, "Your boss is falling in love with you." And I just thought your boss just gave you that flowers and candy. And I'd go out at noon--I think now how people do a little extra and they want to be paid--I'd go out on my lunch hour doing the banking and other errands, extra work!

My husband's mother--his father was dead--was kind of eccentric, but she was very smart. She had a house--I know just where it is now on Park Boulevard--where they were living. He was ill a few days and he wanted me to come out one night and take some dictation. So my boyfriend--I'd forgotten that--went with me. My husband--I think one of the reasons I married him was that he was one of the most brilliant men I'd ever met.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: Really. Everybody says that. And he not only was that in accounting but he had studied to be



a chiropractor. He had studied all the ancient religions. And he also knew how to do horoscopes--not that he believed much in it--but he knew how to figure horoscopes, you know, how to calculate them. I remember--this is funny--while I was at his home taking dictation, with my boyfriend, he did my horoscope. All I can remember about it was, he said, "You won't make a very good wife."

REINIER: Why?

SARGENT: Well, he was doing my horoscope. I can't remember anything else that he told me, but I remember that.

REINIER: So he was already thinking about it.

SARGENT: Yes. And so, I don't remember whether my boyfriend paid much attention or not. I think he did a little.

REINIER: I think he did too. [Laughter]

SARGENT: Then the next thing I knew he asked me to marry him.

REINIER: Was he quite a bit older than you?

SARGENT: Just seven years.

REINIER: And when he asked you to marry him, you said. .  
. .

SARGENT: I don't think I did right away. I think now I really was in love--I didn't know him really

well--I was in love with the fact that he was smart and also had great integrity. Businessmen talked of his integrity in business. In fact, Bank of America officers told me that if they had a report signed by D.A. Sargent and Company, they didn't have to check it. And also when [President Herbert] Hoover was president, my husband was sent back to Washington to do a report on one of the first, NRA or something like that [RFC, Reconstruction Finance Corporation], initial reports. The president said in my presence it was among the finest that ever was sent to Washington. So he really was a brilliant man.

He should have made more money than he did. He made good money but, . . . I foolishly didn't get any of the business. So I should be very wealthy, but I'm not. Because my husband left the business to his employees. I not only should have inherited the business because I was married over fifty years, also I helped build up the business. I brought in a lot of business. I know many of the clients, for instance, Valley, who founded the Raiders, . . . . Everybody called my husband D.A., D.A. Sargent and Company, but his name was Douglas Alfred

Louis Singer Sargent. He was related to the famous Singer Sargent, the painter.

REINIER: He was from an eastern family then?

SARGENT: Yes. From Chicago.

REINIER: Midwestern.

SARGENT: And I remember Wayne Valley saying to me, "If D.A. had your personality with his brains, there'd be no limit to what he could do."

REINIER: So after D.A. asked you to marry him, how long was your courtship?

SARGENT: I guess it was a year. And the courtship was mainly in the office.

REINIER: You continued to work for him?

SARGENT: Yes. It was mostly business, helping him build up his business because he was just getting started. At the time he was the youngest CPA [Certified Public Accountant] to ever pass the CPA examination, which they say is difficult. And he had a little business in Sacramento. I think he worked for another CPA in Sacramento before he came to Oakland and opened the office. I used to go with him to Sacramento because he had several accounts there. He had the biggest laundry, I remember, in Sacramento, and at that time laundries made big money. Because I remember he did cost accounting reports and

meetings for the cleaners and the laundry businessmen, so we went to all of the laundry conventions and the cleaning conventions. I used to have real good times at these conventions. Then he had a Noack Jewelry store, which was the big jewelry store in Sacramento. I think that family is still in Sacramento. N-o-a-c-k, I remember. We were very careful to have separate rooms and\or cabins on the little steamboat up the Sacramento River.

REINIER: What steamboat was that?

SARGENT: There was a steamboat that took you overnight--can you imagine?--all the way to Sacramento. In fact, just recently, a friend invited me to a ship on the Sacramento River, one of the oldest navy ships that's in dry dock in San Francisco. They got the crew together and they went on a trip for about three days up the Sacramento River. And they invited me as a guest in the ship. I didn't go with them on the trip, but an official of Twain drove me to Sacramento to a party on the ship. And that reminded me of these little steamboats that cruised to Stockton and to Sacramento overnight. It was fun!

REINIER: Well now, when where you married?

SARGENT: In 1923 on January 20.

REINIER: Did you have a big wedding?

SARGENT: No, because it was in the middle of the tax season. In fact, I always said I wouldn't marry a man that didn't take me to Honolulu on my honeymoon. We didn't have any honeymoon. But every year right after the tax season and just before the tax season we went to Palm Springs. That was the beginning of Palm Springs. It's too bad because we were offered all kinds of property; I was offered a wonderful buy on the main street next to the Del Tahquitz Hotel. But my husband wouldn't buy anything that I was offered. I was always being offered opportunities to go into the hotel business or the restaurant business or the bar business and he would never allow me to accept any of the offers.

REINIER: Why not?

SARGENT: Well, I know now that he thought I'd meet too many people and take off. And I think maybe I would have.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: Yes. He kept me from ever making money, ever getting a job. And I see now why. And also, the clubs I belonged to, if they had night meetings, he kept me from attending them. I

don't know why I was so foolish, but I did everything he told me to. I signed papers, like I signed the business away. I did all kinds of things because I thought he was real smart and I should do what he said. So really, he was almost like being my father.

And then I really wanted to get a divorce. I remember one time I thought I was going to get a divorce. We had a big home (before this one) on Calmar Avenue in Oakland, off of Lake Shore and Mandana on the hill. I can remember being in the downstairs hall giving my husband the ultimatum. I wanted a divorce, and he had sent for my father. And my father came immediately; they liked each other so much. I told you in the beginning that D.A. was almost a replica of my father. They looked alike and acted alike. And I remember, my husband and my father, the two of them, standing over me in the hall. And my father (as much as he loved me) never asked me whether I was happy or not. He just said I should not get a divorce. Of course, at that time you didn't get divorces. When I see the people now walking out with children. My father said, "You just don't get a divorce." He said, "I will disown you." And I thought,

"Well, I can't lose my father and my husband."

So that's why I stayed.

REINIER: Why did you want a divorce?

SARGENT: I had so many men giving me attention. I was a beautiful woman, and I had so much attention, all these jobs offered me. If I'd had more confidence in making money, I would have left. But, my husband gave me the idea I needed him, that I wouldn't survive without him.

REINIER: You stayed.

SARGENT: So I stayed.

REINIER: Fifty years.

SARGENT: Over fifty years, yes. Almost fifty-one, I think!

REINIER: Did you keep working for him in the office?

SARGENT: No, just for a while. Then I became very social. I kept Cedar Branch of the Children's Hospital [Oakland] together and became chairman, and I worked for two other branches. At that time I raised the most money that had ever been raised for a children's hospital branch.

REINIER: Cedar Branch is the branch of the hospital.  
What organization was it?

SARGENT: Children's Hospital of Oakland.

REINIER: But what organization were you part of?

SARGENT: I was the chairman of the [Children's Hospital--

Oakland Foundation] Cedar Branch. In other words, Cedar Branch was falling apart. And Mrs. [Minnie] Oliver of the very wealthy [Harold] Oliver family was president of all the branches and she lived in a big house, which is still here on Estates Drive on the other side of this reservoir which is next to my home. I used to go to her home and type letters, etc. She told me, "If it wasn't for you, Gladdy, the Cedar Branch would have disbanded." I gave big parties. I was in the social column doing all these parties, fashion shows, etc. to raise money. Then, when I got restless, my husband was afraid, I guess, I'd take a job. So he's the one who arranged for me to be on the board of the Oakland SPCA [Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals]. And that's how I started helping animals.

REINIER: And that's when your career really took off.

SARGENT: Because I had never owned animals. I had a dog and a cat as a youngster; I can't even remember what happened to them. But I wasn't a real animal lover and my family wasn't.

REINIER: It was OK with your husband when you did charity work?

SARGENT: Yes, as long as I didn't make any money.



REINIER: As long as you didn't make any money.

SARGENT: I can see now that he didn't want me to be independent. He thought I'd leave him.

REINIER: And the social life was all right with him; he didn't object to that? Because you were quite a party goer too, weren't you? Didn't you enjoy social activity quite a bit?

SARGENT: Yes. The minute I wasn't working for him I went to luncheons all the time. I belonged to the Women's Athletic Club [Inc.] and the Opera League. I went to book reviews at the Athletic Club and played bridge. Now it makes me angry when I think of all the time I wasted. What a waste of time!

REINIER: That was in the twenties and the thirties?

SARGENT: Yes, thirties and forties.

REINIER: Were you very much affected by the depression in the thirties?

SARGENT: No, not very much. Although my husband was in the stock market and we had a big loss. But not as much as some people, who were jumping out of windows, you know. We didn't lose too much.

REINIER: So you didn't really feel the depression as a hard time at all. You kept up your activities.

SARGENT: I kept up my social life.

REINIER: Did you hope to have children?

SARGENT: No. I didn't care if I had children or not. I don't why. The doctor said I could have had them if I wanted. It wasn't going to be easy for me to get pregnant, but I could. But my husband didn't particularly want children. And I asked him, "If we don't have any, do you want to adopt one?" We had a maid who was pregnant, which we didn't know. And the family begged me to take her child, but my husband didn't want to take it. He didn't really care about having children.

REINIER: So did your activities fill your time?

SARGENT: Yes, I was very busy, very busy.

REINIER: You really started on a career, though, when you became interested in animal issues. And you were saying just a few minutes ago that as a child and a young woman you hadn't particularly liked animals.

SARGENT: No. Everybody was surprised at that. Did I tell you about the little bull dog that was responsible for Pets & Pals? I can just cry when I think of that poor little dog. I was made secretary of the board of the SPCA . . .

REINIER: . . . Was that the Oakland? . . .

SARGENT: . . . The Oakland SPCA. The president was Sherwood Swann; they used to be the Swann

Market. In fact, the big Swann Market is right now, I understand, being pulled down. It's on Washington Street in Oakland. This firm, I forget the name of it, is doing a lot of building at the foot of Broadway and is going to build there. I've had some calls about all the poor stray cats down there. We've got somebody going down and feeding them. But they don't care anything about the animals. He [the contractor] doesn't want anybody to feed them. He's been fighting with the people down there. Some woman is coming all the way from Berkeley at night to feed those cats. She's put her life on the line down there; they've been terrible to her. I've had to intervene several times.

But anyway, Swann was a big client of my husband's and a big name around town. He took it [President of Oakland SPCA] not because he cared anything about the shelter or the animals, but because somebody prominent should be head of it. And I decided that I should know what's going on if I was secretary. So I went over there [to the shelter] on my own. And I remember a poor little kitty being adopted. I could tell from the man running the shelter and the man taking the kitty that there was

something peculiar going on. That cat wasn't getting a loving home. The man had it in his arms and I was petting it. I see now the poor thing must have been going for research.

Then I went out and looked over the dogs. I can see this little bull dog now. He did all kinds of tricks, begging me to take him out. And I thought, "Oh, the poor little thing." So I went home and asked my husband and he said I couldn't have a dog. So I didn't get the dog, but right then I started Pets & Pals. I went back to the board and I told them that I wanted to do what I was doing for Children's Hospital, have parties to raise money. We'd get more animals placed, more publicity, and I'd help the animals. Sherwood Swann, the president, thought it was a good idea. But he said, "We'll have to vote on it." I can't remember the fellow's name, but he was very prominent then. He was head of the whole key system. You know what the key system was?

REINIER: Sure, the train system.

SARGENT: Yes. And he was a wealthy man. I didn't know he was leaving his money to the Oakland SPCA. That's why he had a lot of say. He thought I shouldn't do what I wanted to do; I don't know

why. So I said, "All right, I'll start my own organization." And I remember him saying, "Oh, you'll be back, Gladdy, you won't be able to do all that by yourself." Well, I never went back.

REINIER: That was in the forties?

SARGENT: Yes. '46.

REINIER: 1946.

SARGENT: Yes. I started having parties to raise money like I did for Children's Hospital. My husband gave me quite a little money.

REINIER: So your husband backed this venture?

SARGENT: Yes. Anything to keep me quiet. Then I wasn't making money. So I started to have some big fashion shows and parties. The first thing I had was a hat show at one of the new restaurants downtown. And then I had the other parties. I had one around the pool. I remember one at the hotel at Lake Merritt. Then I had one on a ship down at the foot of Broadway there. I called the party--my husband made up the name--"Putting on the Dog." In fact, that's our name now; we registered the name.

We had one here at the pool. I'd have a bourbon bar and a scotch bar and a wine bar--different bars--and a champagne bar. I had all the liquor donated because we were very close to

[Charles] Beringer; he was a big client of my husband. And Beringer was very fond of me. So we got all the liquor donated and we charged tickets to come in and tickets for the liquor. I got some professional models and some models who were just society people, like I modeled sometimes. I had clothes designed to match the spots on the animals. And then they walked dogs and cats on leashes all around the pool.

REINIER: Here at this house?

SARGENT: Yes. Also I got professional swimmers from the old Oakland Athletic Club, 12th and Broadway, that my husband belonged to. And they wore iridescent bathing suits. So I had a beautiful party. Then we had an auction; I used to love to run auctions. The society columnist [Suzette]--I think her name was Williams--came late to the party. She said, "Gladdy, I can hear your party all over the hills here."

What was very significant was that at this first one, this hat show at this restaurant. . . . It was a new restaurant; it was a good ad for them. I remember getting the top businessmen. They were supposed to pick out the best hats, but they were really picking out the gals, the models. And, of course, I was fairly young then

too. They had good looking gals and I had some professional models then too. But it was going to be just these hats that I was just so crazy about. But the outstanding thing about that first party was that some woman whose husband was visiting my husband's employee came to the party with his wife, and evidently lost a diamond ring. I remember it was just pouring the day of the party, but we still did all right.

[End Tape 1, Side B]

[Session 2, March 9, 1989]

[Begin Tape 2, Side A]

REINIER: Gladys, at the end of the tape last time we were talking about the "Putting on the Dog" parties that you gave in the late forties for Pets & Pals. . . .

SARGENT: That was the first one, the hat show.

REINIER: Yes, the hat show. And you were telling me a story about a woman who lost her diamond ring.

SARGENT: Yes. It was at a new restaurant downtown. This woman was visiting with my husband's head man of D.A. Sargent and Company. Of course, I was emceeing the show and didn't know anything about it until in the middle. I had a group of businessmen and bankers there, including my husband, who were supposed to be checking which hat was the best hat. Of course, they really were looking over the models, you know. So they enjoyed that. Then all of the sudden this woman said that she had lost her diamond ring. Of course, immediately I announced it. People looked all over the floor and around for it and



they didn't find it.

Then that evening--of course, I didn't know that she was staying with my husband's head man--they called up and said that some woman who was at the party and supposedly a member of Pets & Pals had said that I had found the ring when I was emceeing the show and that I had pawned it and had the ring. My husband was furious. He said, very foolishly, "I'll buy her any kind of a diamond ring she wants, but she doesn't want it." Which is true, I loved colored stones but I'm not crazy about diamonds. Of course, I didn't have her ring. So that evening my husband immediately had me go with him over to his head man's house to confront the woman. And I said, "I never knew what it was to take a nickel of anybody's and I certainly haven't got your diamond ring." After they checked around the restaurant--they'd done everything to look for it--I guess she was convinced that I didn't have her ring; I hope so. It was raining very hard and they thought maybe when she got out of the car that it went in the gutter. And, of course, if it was washed down the sewer, they'd never find the ring.

But the reason I brought it up was the fact

that my husband had warned me that when you start an organization, don't have too big a board because there's always someone trying to take control from you. This was the woman who accused me of pawning the ring. After that she started to cause trouble and she caused a lot of trouble. She was someone that I didn't know. The rest of the people I knew slightly or knew of them. I had organized Children's Hospital parties; I had not owned an animal and didn't know who had animals or who was interested. So I took people on the board because they were recommended by other people or they told me they loved animals and joined Pets & Pals. She was one of those, but I don't know who she was recommended by. . . .

REINIER: What was her name?

SARGENT: I don't remember. I guess I just put it out of my mind because she tried to get control of Pets & Pals. The next thing that happened was, I was home one time and my husband called up and wanted to know where I was. Because he got a call and evidently it was this same woman. He called up and said, "You're home." And I said, "Yes. I'm working on Pets". . . . I was working very hard--it wasn't incorporated yet--to get

all the papers and things together. And I said, "Well, why are you surprised that I'm home?" He said, "Because I got a call, and this is the number left, that you have just been going around bars picking up men." We found out it was the same woman. She was doing everything she could to ruin Pets & Pals or get on the board or get control.

REINIER: Why would she do that? What was her objective?

SARGENT: Well, my husband said that he did the work for Ebell Club [Society] and somebody did that to them. Then the doctor's wife that started the Women's Athletic Club, they got her out, but not just the same way. But he said, "If you get too big a board, there's always someone that wants to make trouble." Or wants to be president or get control.

REINIER: How big was your board?

SARGENT: I think I had about twelve people or thirteen-- you have to have an uneven number--thirteen or fifteen. So I cut it down to about seven. I talked to the other board members and we voted her out. But we had a terrible time; she didn't want to leave. And I didn't really know her. I don't know anyone that actually knew her.

REINIER: How did you select your board members?

SARGENT: Well, we voted them in.

REINIER: But what criteria did you use?

SARGENT: They were people that were suggested to me, that either gave a sponsorship or told me how they liked animals and started to work and help. I don't remember her name; I never saw her again.

REINIER: Early in the years of Pets & Pals what were your objectives? What were you hoping to accomplish?

SARGENT: As soon as I raised enough money for a shelter for homeless animals. . . .There are so many; we just shouldn't allow more animals to be born. Every pound in every city and township has got thousands of animals, lovely dogs and cats, without homes. So, our big thing was and is to help people who can't afford to get them spayed and altered. People have no business allowing their animals to breed when there are no homes for so many of them. We helped people if they didn't have enough food or couldn't take care of their animals so that they would keep them, or with veterinarian care. We paid a lot of veterinarian bills. We paid to house some animals, lost animals, at various shelters. I had an office in my home when we lived on Calmar Avenue. And then finally I got a secretary. When we started having then big parties called

"Putting on the Dog," we raised quite a little money. Then I moved here to Estates Drive and I had an office downstairs with a secretary. I had help come in until the man next door had me arrested.

REINIER: Why did he have you arrested?

SARGENT: Because he said this was too good a neighborhood to have a business office. I said, "It isn't a business office." On the other side of this reservoir for years before this house was built Mrs. Oliver, who headed the branches of the Children's Hospital [Oakland Foundation], had me come to her home. I typed and I used to help her a great deal. That was all right, you see; it was a charity for children. The minute you do a charity for poor animals then there always seems to be somebody in the neighborhood who complains. I had the hot house and lathe house; I had some stray cats out there. He complained about that. And he said too many people were coming here to the house. I found out later, when it was in the paper and he had me arrested, that one of his daughters told her teacher that her father--we knew he was retired, had quite a little money; his father evidently had a big business--was watching everybody that came and

left my home. Some of them were coming for certificates. We had a great many veterinarians at that time cooperating and doing spaying and altering at a lower fee. So we had people come sign certificates and they got a lower fee to get their animal spayed or altered.

REINIER: Now all this was before you got the shelter out in Contra Costa County.

SARGENT: Right. When the man next door complained so much, I had to give it up. So my husband gave me the rest of the money and we bought the shelter on Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. I don't know how many years I had that, but I had it for some time. There was a house on it and I had some people live in it to take care of the animals.

REINIER: I think I read that you had it for twenty years, that it finally closed down in 1975.

SARGENT: I didn't remember. The only reason I closed it down was that I was there every weekend because Saturdays and Sundays were when we placed most of the animals. My husband finally got tired of that. But I know I got a citation from [Governor Ronald] Reagan when he was governor. Of course, when it first started, [Governor Edmund G.] Jerry Brown's [Jr.] father [Governor

Edmund G. Brown, Sr.] was the governor. When I had the shelter there, I started going back and forth to Sacramento because I started lobbying. Then on weekends I would go out to the shelter. I finally hired someone else to run the office and the people living there were taking care of the animals. I received a commendation from Reagan when I placed over 8,000 animals.

REINIER: How many animals might you handle a day out there?

SARGENT: I have no idea.

REINIER: I read in an article that it was much as twenty-five dogs and ten cats a day. Do you think that was accurate?

SARGENT: It would fluctuate, but around that.

REINIER: And you had training classes out there also.

SARGENT: Oh yes! I forgot that. I got someone that did training--sitting, staying--basic training; so we had classes once a week. The people that got animals from us and some others, too, trained their dogs.

REINIER: And then you had an adoption service for the placement of animals?

SARGENT: Oh yes, we placed a lot of animals.

REINIER: And did you have people sign adoption papers?

SARGENT: Yes, regular adoption papers. We do that now.

We have a shelter out at Stockton, a big shelter. And then San Francisco [branch of Pets & Pals] places animals and it's all with adoption papers. They can't sell, or breed, or give away the animals. Whenever they can't keep them, they are to bring them back to Pets & Pals.

REINIER: I see. Did you do the spaying and neutering there at the shelter?

SARGENT: No, we had them sign and they went to a veterinarian who did it at a lower fee. If they couldn't pay whatever portion of this, we tried to help them.

REINIER: Did you keep fund raising all through these years to support the shelter?

SARGENT: No. I did for a while and then I didn't have time. I'd like to help now when I get better. I had several fund raisers.

REINIER: Yes, you told us about that on the first tape. Pets & Pals has expanded quite a bit over the years, hasn't it?

SARGENT: Yes. We have a branch in Los Angeles. We have one in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Stockton and now, this side of Stockton at Lathrop. Did I tell you that before? We have the big shelter that has dogs and cats, a couple of goats,



horses, burros. And now they advise me that they have got more than one turkey, ducks, and different kinds of animals.

REINIER: I thought it was a pretty interesting story the way you got the shelter at Lathrop.

SARGENT: Yes, this terrible man, I'm trying to think of his name. . . .

REINIER: I think it was [     ] Knudsen, wasn't it?

SARGENT: He was an animal dealer and did some terrible things. He hired men even to go up into Oregon, all over where people advertised their animals just for good homes. He sent people out with children and had the children say, "We want your pet. I want a pet. We have a closed-in yard." But all the time they were selling them to laboratories, to the worst cruelty we've known. And people thought that they were getting a good home for their animal.

REINIER: Didn't Knudsen get arrested?

SARGENT: Yes. Some of these animal rights people that demonstrate--which you know I don't do--were out there demonstrating against him. They even threw paint on his place--and I had to repaint the place--because of what he did, selling these animals, this terrible animal dealer. Evidently he drank a lot, and he went off, so they say, on

a binge. Anyway, he was gone, so for sixty days those animals had no food or water. They were all over the place dead, and those that survived ate the other ones. It was horrible, just horrible. And there was food there in buckets, but they couldn't get to it. And nobody knew it. What gets me is, now we are checked all the time, but they didn't check him.

REINIER: How did Pets & Pals get the kennel at Lathrop?  
Did you buy it?

SARGENT Yes. I paid big money for it. I paid the going price. I guess we could have gotten it more reasonably, but we offered right away what they were asking for it. I think it was \$100,000 cash. But anybody else that wanted it, so they told us, wanted it to breed more animals. We don't need more breeding of animals, dogs and cats. So we bought it and fixed it up right away.

Sue Molen, M-o-l-e-n, is the chairman of Pets & Pals. She lives in Stockton and she does a wonderful job. Then they have other volunteers. They got a crew together right away to pick up those poor dead animals and fix up the place and get it ready. We had a branch there, but they were working from their homes,

like we do when we first get started places, taking the animals into their homes and finding homes, or asking the people to keep them until they can find a home. So we had a branch for some time up there and I had different gals at different times. Sue Molen had taken over. So when I bought the shelter, she managed it. She lives in Stockton.

REINIER: How many volunteers do you have in Pets & Pals?

SARGENT: I don't know how many she has up there, but overall we have about twenty-five.

REINIER: And how many members do you have?

SARGENT: It's hard for me to say.

REINIER: Is it a pretty big membership?

SARGENT: About 5,000, I guess.

REINIER: Oh, a lot.

SARGENT: But they come and go, you know. Some of them don't keep it up.

REINIER: So you have branches in San Francisco. . . .

SARGENT: We have all kinds of cats to find homes for, all kinds of animals, but particularly cats in San Francisco because we are getting them spayed and altered. You see, there are a lot of people in San Francisco in apartments that can't keep animals. They won't even let them keep a cat, and a cat doesn't hurt anything. If you have a

cat pan, they are usually so clean; they go to that. They have it in their bathroom. A cat doesn't do any damage unless you have a furnished apartment where they might claw the furniture. But otherwise they are usually real clean, always, I've found. Some people can't have them, but they don't want the animals to starve that they have around the apartment. We don't want them to starve; we want them fed. But they keep multiplying so much. So we get them spayed and altered. We find homes for those that we can. And we've got a lot in homes in San Francisco. We're looking for some property there for a place for someone to live where they can have cats, some extra ones. Maybe a store front where we can sell second-hand things, which they try to do a lot in San Francisco--have sales--and then place the cats.

REINIER: You have a Sacramento branch also.

SARGENT: Yes. We have had it for a long time.

REINIER: And a kennel in Galt?

SARGENT: Well, the kennel in Galt doesn't belong to us, but we have loaned them money for the former performing animals. I put a bill in the legislature for them. No one thought I'd get it through and no one thought the governor would

sign it, but he did last year.<sup>1</sup>

REINIER: Great. And then you have an L.A. branch?

SARGENT: Yes. Right now it's in transit. We have had different chairmen and we need a new chairman.

REINIER: Does that pretty much cover the branches of Pets & Pals?

SARGENT: Yes. We have some people in New Jersey that were going to start a branch. We've got members all over--members in Europe, too--but not a whole branch.

REINIER: How do you go about getting members?

SARGENT: Oh, I just go after 'em. [Laughter]

REINIER: The same way you go after legislators?

SARGENT: Yes. I either write them, or the people that I know, the ones that own football teams. Some of the wealthy men are duck hunters, so they don't want to give me money because I am not for hunting. This word "hunting." Let's tell it like it is. It's killing; it's not hunting. Nobody has to go out hunting for their food today. They are just out for the fun of killing. I am concerned because there is a bill in now. We are not only encouraging children to handle guns and go hunting in the schools, which

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 1189, 1987 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat. 1987, ch. 1231.

is terrible, but now they want to give free hunting licenses to anybody over sixty or sixty-five to encourage them, which is unbelievable.<sup>1</sup>

And they are not satisfied with that. I understand there is another bill in, which I have fought before, for handicapped people.<sup>2</sup> Now imagine encouraging them to hunt. If they wound an animal, they can't go get it and put it out of its misery. There are other nice things to do for the handicapped other than going out and killing our wildlife. It's just been on television that all kinds of animals are almost extinct. There is not enough food for them; they are coming down into the cities. And with all these hunters--and let's call it by its right name, the ones that enjoy killing--pretty soon we won't have any wildlife.

REINIER: So you have been working against the hunters for a long time.

SARGENT: Oh, yes. There is some publicity that shows that I was trying to stop bow and arrow hunting, which is one of the worst. I had a bill in and I had more coauthors on it than I've ever seen

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 178, 1989-90 Reg. Sess. (1989).

<sup>2</sup>S.B. 212, 1989-90 Reg. Sess. (1989).

on a bill. But someone [Rita Del Mar] that was working on animals up there discouraged me and said I didn't know enough about it and to wait. And then that girl died and, of course, the bill was never put in. I shouldn't have listened.

And now, of course, I'm particularly against these people that say they're--they have some other nice word for it--but they're really head hunters. They're just out with a pack of dogs and get someone to chase a poor mountain lion up a tree. Then the hunter comes along, the big, brave hunter supposedly, and shoots it out of the tree and puts the head on the wall and says, "Look how I killed that big ferocious lion." So, I say to some of these killers, so-called hunters, that if they're so big and brave, "You go out without all your camouflage clothes." You know they have camouflage noises and whistles to confuse the poor animal. They have walkie talkies and their guns. And I say, "You're supposed to be so brave. If you want to go out with your bare hands against the animals, then let's see the best man win."

REINIER: Well, Gladys, how did you get started in lobbying?

SARGENT: Rita Del Mar was up there [Sacramento] from Los

Angeles and someone got me in touch with her, or she got in touch with me. I was on the board for the Humane Society of the United States and we were meeting in various places, mostly down south, Santa Barbara and that, because that's where their president was. And they decided to hire a young lawyer to go to Sacramento and put in the first humane slaughter bill.<sup>1</sup> It was terrible the way we killed our meat. Men would stand there and just hit cows over the head with a mallet. They say most of them went insane. The poor animal would slip and fall. . . .

REINIER: The men went insane?

SARGENT: Yes. They'd have to keep hitting them to get them out. And so that was the first humane slaughter bill.

REINIER: What did the bill provide? What was the alternative way?

SARGENT: They had a mechanical--I forget what you'd call it--to kill them. To stun them, you see. . . .

REINIER: So they'd be unconscious?

SARGENT: Yes. So they'd kill them very quickly. And the only thing we had to exempt were the Jewish people for kosher meat. Do you know what they

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<sup>1</sup>Humane Slaughter Bill finally passed in 1967: A.B. 2238, 1967 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1381.



do? They hoist those poor cows and animals so they bleed. Oh, it's horrible to hang those animals. But I had to exempt them because you know, anything religious. . . .

REINIER: The rabbis opposed the humane slaughter bill?

SARGENT: Well, after I went up there with the young lawyer and Rita Del Mar, we were getting the humane slaughter bill through, and one of the assemblymen, who has since died, called up here, "Gladdy, hurry up and get to Sacramento. I've got about"--I guess it was about twelve rabbis--"walking the halls and in my office and they are all upset against your humane slaughter bill. They want to be exempted." And so I rushed up there. He left his office and there they were all sitting in his office and I had to confront all these rabbis. So I had to exempt them, which I didn't want to do.

REINIER: So the bill was amended?

SARGENT: Yes, but just for exempting them. But we got the bill through, and I believe it was the first humane slaughter bill. And that's how I got started lobbying.

REINIER: Was that in the early fifties?

SARGENT: Early fifties. Because Pets & Pals was incorporated in '47 and in the early fifties I

started lobbying in Sacramento.

REINIER: You mentioned Rita Del Mar. Did she represent some particular group?

SARGENT: Yes. I don't remember the name of it, but she had her own little organization and had a shelter down south, out of Los Angeles.

REINIER: Did you and Rita work together then?

SARGENT: We did at lobbying, yes.

REINIER: I saw some publicity that you both were wearing big hats.

SARGENT: That's when the hunters got organized. Did you see that article that said that if we don't get organized, the two little women in the hats are going to outlaw all hunting?

REINIER: Yes, I did see that.

SARGENT: And she's the one that talked me out of the bow and arrow bill. I'm sorry because, as I say, I had more coauthors on that than have ever been on a bill. And then the hunters got organized. They weren't organized before that. Now the minute there's anything against hunting they fill the room up there.

REINIER: So there's a strong hunters' lobby?

SARGENT: Oh, yes. And some of them are terrible looking. Scroungy.

REINIER: You know, last time we talked about your

husband. Was your husband supportive of your lobbying activities?

SARGENT: Yes. He gave me the money to go. I not only worked for free; I paid my own expenses. He didn't like my being away so long. Sometimes I'd stay all week at the Senator Hotel. But he was real proud of me getting bills through. I knew he'd go to his club, and some of the men told me, "He's so proud at the table that Gladdy got a bill passed." Most of the men, the businessmen, didn't go to Sacramento. They had no idea what was going on. And my husband was a big Republican. He came to Sacramento just once. He stayed over night. Jesse Unruh was called the "Daddy of California." He was running California at that time. And I was kind of scared of him. Rita Del Mar was from his district, but she didn't get an audience. . . .

[End Tape 2, Side A]

[Begin Tape 2, Side B]

REINIER: You were talking about Jesse Unruh.

SARGENT: I'd leave these notes. They were calling him the "Daddy," so I'd say the "Big Daddy." And I had this bill to stop the big lumber interests from killing bears. Incidentally, right now they're doing it again. We're trying to stop

it.

REINIER: Is that the steel traps bill?<sup>1</sup> To keep them from using steel traps to kill the bears?

SARGENT: Yes. And I was fighting the big lumber interests. So I would say, "To Papa Bear from Mama Bear," or something. You know, I'd write these little notes. So one day I was standing right by this door--they have doors in and out, but I didn't know that there are side doors or back doors--and all of a sudden the door opens and there's Unruh. I hadn't had any interview with him and had not been that close to him. He said, "I have been hearing about Gladdy, this wonderful lobbyist." So he said to one of the girls, "Get us a cup of coffee and we'll sit over here and let's see Gladdy lobby me." I was so nervous that I didn't do a very good job. I asked him later--because we became very good friends and he voted for my bills--and I said, "I didn't do a very good job." And he said, "No, you weren't up to what I've heard that you could do." But I was just nervous, you know, and I wasn't ready for him to open the door.

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 1001, 1967 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 310.

But my husband went up to Sacramento just this one time. I told him all these businessmen really ought to go to Sacramento and see what it is to lobby and see what their legislators are doing . . .

[Interruption]

. . . So he came up and stayed over. He never forgot the place where I used to go and have a table, this Chinese place. . . .

REINIER: Frank Fat's?

SARGENT: Frank Fat's. Everybody knows about Frank Fat's. He said he saw more legislation pass there than in the Capitol, you know, in the evening.

REINIER: Was that true?

SARGENT: Oh not necessarily, but you know they did go over there. I used to have a table right in the corner there and as some of the legislators came in. . . .I remember one time Jesse Unruh came in and I pulled his coat tail. You know, to get some of them to pay attention and talk about my bills. So naturally at night they will mention some bills.

But the next morning, when he first came up, he [D.A. Sargent] went upstairs to the balcony of the assembly just in time to see Jesse Unruh go up on the podium and help me get

a bill passed.

REINIER: Terrific!

SARGENT: So then he gave money to Jesse. I thought he would never give money to the Democratic Party, but he was real impressed.

REINIER: Ah ha!

SARGENT: And then Jesse told me later that he never forgot that his mother sent his dog to the pound. And he never forgave his mother. I think he was only about eleven years old. He remembered that, and he helped me with my humane bills.

REINIER: So Jesse Unruh was a supporter of yours.

SARGENT: Yes.

REINIER: And a friend of yours.

SARGENT: Yes.

REINIER: Well, that was a good friend to have.

SARGENT: Oh yes! Right up to the end he was my friend.

REINIER: Well, Gladdy, when you first went down to Sacramento in the 1950s, did you know anything about lobbying?

SARGENT: No. I didn't know the front door from the back door, what you did at all. And when I went there on the humane slaughter bill for the Humane Society of the United States, this young lawyer was with me. . . .

REINIER: Do you remember his name?

SARGENT: No, I don't remember. But he was hired. We stayed over at the Senator [Hotel] and Rita Del Mar was staying there. She told us the night before that we shouldn't stay up late because we had to get up early. The legislature would go into session around 8:30 [A.M.], and we should be there to talk to the assemblymen about the humane slaughter bill before they went on the floor to vote. Well, we stayed up. I remember this young lawyer said to me, "Maybe we ought to listen to her because you and I don't know what we are doing. I guess we have to listen to what she says." But we didn't go to bed early enough, and we didn't get up early enough.

So we get over to the Capitol and Rita was mad at us because they're already on the floor. So she said, "You'll have to call someone off the floor." Well, I didn't know that you don't call anyone off the floor unless you know the legislator very well. Some of them don't ever want to be called off the floor, and others only if it is a friend of theirs or one of their constituents. But anyway, Rita told me I would have to call some legislator off the floor. I didn't know one from the other, so I said, "Who

do I call?" She said, "Oh, just pick a name." Also we were at the wrong side of the assembly floor, I found out later, because we were at the side where there is a long corridor they have to walk down. Usually, if you want to lobby them, you are at the other side of the assembly floor where it was Jesse's office, now Willie Brown's office.

REINIER: What is the advantage of that? What's wrong with the long corridor?

SARGENT: It was a long way for them to walk off the floor, down a hall.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: So I just picked a name and called him off the floor; I don't remember his name. He came walking down this long hall. It looked like he was looking to see who I was. I guess he thought, "It's no one I know and it is not one of my constituents." And he looked like he was getting madder with each step.

In the meantime, Rita had told the young lawyer to go to one of the assemblymen's offices and try to speak to an assemblyman who wasn't on the floor yet, to ask him to vote for the humane slaughter bill. So he went to an office and came running back and said, "I've had it!" I



said, "What's the matter?" "Well, I went into an assemblyman's office and he practically jumped down my throat and said, 'Are you registered?'" Of course, I don't have to register; I'm not paid. But he was paid and he didn't know he had to register, so he hadn't registered. So the assemblyman went after him and wouldn't listen to his explanation. The young lawyer acted scared, and when he saw the legislator walking down the hall, the assemblyman I had called off the floor, the lawyer stood in back of me and said, "I don't want to talk to him!" I didn't know what to do. Rita hadn't told me.

They say you have to have the personality for lobbying. No one told me what to do. So when the assemblyman was close to me, all I did was look him square in the eye, put my hand on his arm and said, "Please forgive me." He just turned and said, "Forgive you for what?" I said, "I'm just brand new. I don't know my way around and don't know whether I should have called you off the floor." "Well, what is it you want, honey?" I remember him calling me "honey." So I told him I wanted his vote for the humane slaughter bill. He said, "All

right, that's just fine, anything you want."  
And he was all smiles and everything was fine.  
The young lawyer said, "Gladdy, don't worry  
about you lobbying. You're a born lobbyist."  
And that's what people say now.

REINIER: Did you know the legislative process?

SARGENT: No, all I knew was what Rita told me. She told  
me what to do.

REINIER: You must have learned pretty fast.

SARGENT: That's what I was told. The California Branch  
of the Humane Society of the United States  
didn't like it because I started to lobby  
various bills. I started thinking of humane  
bills. Rita Del Mar and I thought up humane  
bills and I went around lobbying. The next bill  
was to stop the coloring of baby chicks. Just  
before Easter they used to color little baby  
chicks. Children shouldn't be given live rabbits  
and other live animals at Easter. People give  
them live animals when the children don't have a  
place to keep them and the children used to put  
the little chicks in bureau drawers, etc. They  
don't know how to feed them or care for them.  
So they would die. It was horrible! And they  
had them colored. So we stopped the coloring of

the baby chicks.<sup>1</sup> And I can remember the assemblyman's name who put in the bill:  
[Assemblyman] Jerome [R.] Waldie and he became a congressman. Now I understand he is living above Sacramento. He represented Contra Costa County; that's when I knew him.

I can remember lobbying that bill and I can even see myself and Rita sitting before the legislative committee. Rita Del Mar was very smart, very dedicated, and came from L.A. But she didn't dress very well and they kind of made fun of how she dressed. At that time they made fun of anyone helping animal bills and referred to little old ladies in tennis shoes. Well, at that time they couldn't call me an old lady and I wasn't little--I think I've shrunk since then--and I didn't wear tennis shoes. I dressed beautifully and I had beautiful hats. Then Rita started wearing hats, and they called us the two little women in hats.

I can remember when Assemblyman Waldie introduced this bill for me. I thought it was wonderful that he bothered with the bill and he was so nice about it. I can remember sitting

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<sup>1</sup>S.B. 904, 1967 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 708.

before the committee and turning to him saying, "Is it all right if I tell all these legislators what a nice man you are?" "Oh," he said, "go right ahead." And then everybody laughed. I do things like that, that nobody else does.

REINIER: It sounds like you use your feminine wiles.

SARGENT: Yes. I don't know whether you saw it the publicity. A couple of years ago--I was amazed--one of the writers of the newspaper article wrote, "Gladdy lobbies mainly with her personality with good humored threats and compliments." And I really do. If they didn't vote for the bill, Rita would tell them off. But it's too late then; they've already voted. The legislators said, "Gladdy, you always do it nicely and tell us that you're sorry we weren't more humane. You don't get angry. So the next time we bend over backwards to vote for your bill."

After the baby chick bill passed, I complimented the assemblyman so much he took Rita Del Mar and me to Frank Fats for lunch. And I just remembered as we came out of Frank Fats a car load of lobbyists--the paid lobbyists I had seen around the halls of the Capitol--came by in a car and came close enough to the curb to

call out to us, mainly to Jerome Waldie, "She is some lobbyist." I knew then that they meant me. And I thought, "I guess I'm doing OK!"

[Laughter]

REINIER: But you just kind of picked it up as you went along.

SARGENT: Yes. Since then people have come from Los Angeles and said they heard I can teach them to be a lobbyist. I don't think you have to teach anyone to be a lobbyist. You have to just have the knack for it. I like doing it; I love lobbying. I like to ask men for money and votes. And I write them little notes. Some of them I write little love notes. I write and thank them and they appreciate that. And I get in to see many of them where other people don't get in.

REINIER: How do you get in to see them?

SARGENT: Because I get friendly with them and write nice little notes with "Love" and "Best regards." So I guess they think they'd better see me.

REINIER: So you think friendship and good manners give you access.

SARGENT: Oh, definitely. You must be real friendly with them. But Rita Del Mar was jealous. I came home one night crying and my husband said, "Did

you lose the bill?" "No, I got the bill out." He said, "Then for goodness sakes, what are you so upset about?" I said, "Because Rita's mad at me." I brought Rita home a couple of times so my husband knew Rita. When a committee passed one of our bills, I went up before the committee and did a little curtsy--I do things like that--and thanked them. Some of the legislators speak to me during a hearing and say, "Gladdy, what do you think of this bill?" I kid with them and say little jokes or compliment them before the committee. So after they passed the colored chick bill--I think it was the big Ways and Means Committee, the biggest committee up there--I went before them and said, "Is it all right if I thank Assemblyman Waldie, the nicest assemblyman?" They all laughed and then I did a little bow. I can remember coming out in the hall, and Rita called me ridiculous.

REINIER: Why?

SARGENT: She said, "You made a fool of yourself!" But it was something she couldn't do and get by with it. She just made me cry and I thought I made a fool of myself. I came home and told my husband. He said, "Honey, don't let her do this to you. That's just jealousy." And it

was. I knew she liked me and she helped me a lot. As I said, she was real dedicated, real smart. But she didn't like it because the men liked me better. And it was because of those little things I did.

REINIER: Do you think you're unique as a woman lobbyist in the way you go about it?

SARGENT: I know I am.

REINIER: You know you are.

SARGENT: If you read any of these letters from legislators and their staff, even from some of the offices that I don't know all the staff, they say, "Gladdy, we need you up here." Nearly every letter says, "You're missed in the halls." And Virginia [Handly], who drives me up to Sacramento, said, "Many lobbyists, aides, secretaries, legislators and others were asking about you." Virginia works for Fund for Animals. She is smart and dedicated and writes position papers on the humane bills. Rose Lernberg looks up the humane bills. So we all work together. You can see in some of these letters they have written, "We miss you in the halls; you should be up here for the cause that you care so much about." I don't mean to give myself too many bouquets, but even the elevator

girls and the starter are very friendly. I get in the elevator and right away it's "Gladdy, how are you doing today?" Sometimes they even skip floors because I'm in a hurry to get to my floor. It was in The [San Francisco] Chronicle one time, "Gladdy's the only one that can make the elevators at the Capitol go where she wants them to go."

REINIER: Were there very many other women lobbyists there in the fifties?

SARGENT: No, there weren't very many. There were a few that had been there longer than I had, but there's many more now. Most of the women lobbyists don't pay attention to me. I guess they think I get special privileges I know no one else does. Sometimes I walk into a legislator's office and they'll say, "Gladdy, is there something I can do for you today?" It might be the office of the chairman of the committee I am appearing before. Some of the Republicans don't vote for our humane bills. And it's mainly because they put money before humaneness. My family have all been Republicans, my husband and my father. As a child, my father told me if you had any money you were Republican, and if you were poor, you



were a Democrat. Of course, it isn't that way today. But the Republicans are mainly the ones that vote against us. Not all of them, but if they call a caucus and the head Republican says, "We're not voting for that bill," most of the Republicans there do not vote for the bill. It's usually a question of dollars. It's like my pet shop bill.<sup>1</sup> "Gladdy, you're trying to put the pet shops out of business." In other words, I feel that a lot of Democrats (not all of them) are more humane, but they may give more money away. And the Republicans think the dollar comes before anything else. In other words, if somebody is making a dollar, don't interfere with them no matter how cruel they are or crooked or inhumane.

REINIER: You've come up against big money a lot. And you don't really have money to give to legislators, do you?

SARGENT: No, it isn't fair to us. Most of the lobbyists are making big money and getting their expenses and also getting their clients to give money to the legislators' campaigns. I can't do that.

REINIER: You don't make campaign contributions.

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 4500, 1987-88 Reg. Sess. (1988).

SARGENT: Not individually. I do belong to PAW PAC. We formed an organization to raise money for campaigns. My husband (a long time ago) offered me money to start an organization to raise money for campaigns. If I could get the humane people together--they're not easy to get together; there are little petty jealousies. I think if they see someone getting publicity, they want the publicity. They start an organization instead of joining one already operating. They start an organization to be president or some other officer, which is too bad.

REINIER: So, you have a PAC committee?

SARGENT: Yes. We have a PAW PAC, P-A-W PAC, and I'm on the board. Originally my husband had said, "Gladdy, with your Pets & Pals, you're non-profit and non-taxable." And I can't give money to campaigns or be paid as a lobbyist. So my husband said, "Form another organization that isn't tax deductible and do lobbying." But it's so hard to get the humane people together. I tried. But now we have PAW PAC. We send letters to humane people and tell them, "This is not tax deductible. We're asking you for a contribution to help on legislation."

REINIER: And then that committee gives campaign

contributions?

SARGENT: Yes. They don't ask me for money. If they ask the humane people for money, we give it through PAW PAC.

REINIER: I see. Now, when you started out in the 1950s, what was the legislature like? How was it different from now?

SARGENT: It seems like there were more humane men. Some of the young assemblymen start as assemblymen and go over to the senate. It seems to be the dollars come first, particularly with some of the Republicans. I feel this country was built on dollars and we're telling the refugees, "Come here and make your money; make your way." So the dollar seems to come before the heart or any cruelty or suffering. The animals don't have money. For the Republicans as a whole the money comes first. The most important thing is making a dollar. That is what made this country, but it's going to be the downfall of this country, if that's all we think about.

REINIER: Do you feel that emphasis on the dollar has increased over the years in the legislature?

SARGENT: Yes, and everywhere else. We tell people coming into this country, "Work hard, and you will make lots of money." I heard it on television the

other day. Here was some man who has been here a few years from the Orient, and here was the whole scenario. Working hard, now he has three apartment houses. All he's doing is working. And then he talked about putting people out of his apartments because they couldn't pay. The story was, you make it in this country as long as you work hard and make money. Everything is the dollar. How do the animals fare? Where do the homeless go? Where's our heart?

The last time I testified in Sacramento, those were the last words I said before the Senate Judiciary Committee because I was afraid they were listening to the pet shops' testimony. These chain pet shops had men from New York, Washington, and a man who trained seeing eye dogs, that hasn't anything to do with the pet shop bill. The chairman was listening intently to the opposition. I looked at the chairman and said, "Please, don't put the dollar before your heart." And the chairman voted for the bill.

One of the things you should know, I found that often the nicer they are to you before the committee, the more apt they are to vote against you.

REINIER: Oh, really?

SARGENT: Yes, if they start being extra nice. Sometimes when I was just getting really excited because I thought the chairman was not going to vote with me, he voted yes, but it looked like and sounded like he was all for the opposition.

REINIER: Do you think he's doing that on purpose?

SARGENT: Oh, yes. I think they're very apt to be real nice if they're going to vote against you; let's be nice about it! I think people are apt to do that. I remember when I went up to Eureka and fought the big lumber interests about the trapping of the bears, when I arrived at the Fish and Game meeting, they were taking my coat and otherwise waiting on me. The chairman of the Fish and Game Commission was against our bear bill and the animals. But he looked like he was being real sweet, taking my coat, bringing a chair, etc. Then they voted against me. So I learned. It's not always as it appears, that's the tendency.

REINIER: You learn to gauge that. But I was wondering, back in the days when it was a part-time legislature, was there a slower pace around the legislature?

SARGENT: In some ways. But I can remember incidents, just where people stood, but I don't pay

attention to people's names; that's my trouble. I remember one of the assemblymen, who later became a congressman; at a party last year I met his daughter, and learned he died. I don't remember his name, but I can recall him walking down the hall on the last day of the legislature saying, "Gladdy Sargent, you have this whole capitol in an uproar."

When I first went to the legislature, they sometimes amended our bills without letting me know. I'd work for a bill and maybe it was changed, maybe not the same bill. But I didn't realize I should work with the aides while they were writing up the bills, the Legislative Counsel, as well as the legislator. The bill was either for the animals or if against them, I just worked against it. I can remember when I was first there, I would be waiting in the front office and discovered other people were coming in another door (the powerful lobbyists). It took me a while to know my way around.

I had a bill at the last minute, and because the committee was not holding any more hearings, the bill would be lost. I heard some bills were being passed, even though the committee was no longer meeting. And I thought,

"How did they do that?" Well, I found out they just held a hearing in back of the floor. The legislators just got together and held a hearing. So, I insisted the last day that my bill be heard. I said, "You can hold a hearing in back of the chambers. I'll tell you just what to do." Well, they didn't know how to answer me, and so I had them upset. And an assemblyman, I can remember him standing in the hall saying, "Gladdy, you have this whole legislature in an uproar the last day of the session." "Well," I said, "They have to hear my bill. You can't hear a bill for that big lobbyist and not for me."

REINIER: So did they do it?

SARGENT: Yes.

REINIER: Wonderful.

SARGENT: Then I can remember another time, a legislator who also became a congressman in Washington--I think he's still alive and I don't remember his name--every time he saw me (they'd visit the legislature once in awhile)--I remember he'd say to anyone in the hall, "I have to tell you about Gladdy. Because the first time I ever voted--I was brand new here--I voted against one of her bills. And she comes down the hall crying.

And she tells me it's my fault she lost the bill. I voted against her bill and she's lost her bill. I never did that again."

REINIER: Gladdy, I read that in some of the publicity. Did you cry quite a bit?

SARGENT: Oh, yes, I'd cry. I'd go to their offices crying. And recently, one of the assemblymen who is kind of big came down from the committee. I needed his vote, so I put my arms around his middle and held on to him. And said, "You must vote for this bill." And I remember him calling to the legislators still sitting on the committee, "She has me entailed here!" I do things like that, but I try to do it in a nice way, in a kidding way and not intrude too much. I compliment them, tell them how much I like them and how I'm depending on them. I don't want to brag, and it doesn't always work. I can't do it with everyone. But the majority of them I think want to be on my side.

REINIER: Can you turn the tears on and off pretty easily?

SARGENT: Yes. Because I'm just thinking of a suffering animal who can't speak for himself.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: I just feel that if we treated every living creature like we'd like to be treated, wouldn't



this be a wonderful world? I think it's a disgrace that a little kitty or a bird, etc. has to be afraid of a human being. If you see a stray dog, a little puppy usually, or a kitty, who are afraid of you when you are trying to help them, they don't know they can trust you. There are so many inhumane people. It is disgraceful! When we think of all the murders, and the power of the gun lobby, and they are telling people it's necessary to have guns.

[End Tape 2, Side B]

[Session 3, March 16, 1989]

[Begin Tape 3, Side A]

REINIER: Gladdy, I thought today we'd talk about the 1960s. And I wanted to ask you first, did lobbying change in the 1960s as a result of the activism of the sixties?

SARGENT: I don't think so, except that Virginia working for Fund for Animals was lobbying, and a few other people.

REINIER: I was thinking of the protest movements of the 1960s. I wondered if there was much more grass roots activity and much more activism in lobbying as a result of that?

SARGENT: Some, and now we have all these animal rights movements and people. Rita Del Mar was there when I started lobbying. There was no one else lobbying for humane laws except a Mr. [ ] Dalmadge of the American Humane Association. I heard a movie star by the name of Taylor--I forget her first name--she was very well known.  
. . .

REINIER: I think before you said it was Estelle Taylor.

SARGENT: That's right, Estelle Taylor. She was married at one time to Jack Dempsey, the famous fighter; pugilist, isn't it?

REINIER: Yes.

SARGENT: I heard she lobbied for the animals, but it was before I lobbied and I never met her. But Rita Del Mar was lobbying while Estelle Taylor was. There were more humane laws passed in the sixties than in the fifties because Rita and I did a lot of work until Rita died.

REINIER: When did these other groups, more like the groups today, start lobbying?

SARGENT: Virginia Handly and Rose Lernberg have been working on humane bills for quite a while. Others come and go but most of them write the legislators. But there are many new organizations working for the animals. Some of them are very active in Washington [D.C.] and other states.

I would like to stop the unnecessary, repetitious, cruel experiments where there are alternatives. As long as they get the animals from our pounds, they are not using the alternatives. We got a bill passed that the University of California should appoint a committee to explore the use of alternatives to

relieve much animal suffering. There are alternatives now so they don't have to use live animals, but they continue. [State] Senator David [A.] Roberti has submitted names of qualified humane people on an alternative committee to live animals. Much of the experimentation is unnecessary and repetitious, but the experimenters get large grants of our taxes.

REINIER: So you haven't really relied on protests, that kind of thing, in your career?

SARGENT: No, I don't march. I just had a phone call to go on a march in Washington [D.C.]. Someone else just called and wanted to know why I wasn't at the demonstration in San Francisco. But I don't do any demonstrating because I don't think it helps with the lobbying.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: I remember whenever the unions were picketing a restaurant, that's the restaurant my husband would patronize. I realized that many of the wealthy people and particularly those with influence don't demonstrate. Demonstrations are very apt to turn these people off. People with influence are very apt to think people who demonstrate are out of work or do not have

anything else to do.

REINIER: So do you think it's more effective to work as an insider?

SARGENT: Yes, for me. However, some of the demonstrators have made a difference, such as the protesters against fur coats. I just heard of a well-known company announcing they would stop selling furs. If some of the animal rights people hadn't broken into the laboratories, we wouldn't know of many of the cruel experiments. So if they're brave enough to break in and put their life on the line--some of them go to jail--more power to them.

REINIER: You do use the press quite a bit.

SARGENT: Yes. The press has interviewed me quite often and the publicity helps me get bills passed. I had a call today about a bill to stop some of the cruel testing on live animals that's done over and over again. And anyone who produces some new product, as long as somebody thinks they might make a dollar from it, can try it out on the unfortunate animals. It's not right! There's a bill against some of the unnecessary testing of cosmetic and household products.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>S.B. 60, 1989-90 Reg. Sess. (1989).

Proctor and Gamble [Inc.] and many other companies are in Sacramento protesting the bill. I lobbied for the bill. I try to work on the inside to get the votes for the bills.

REINIER: You were doing quite a bit of inside lobbying in the 1960s. I thought some of the issues that I've seen were extremely interesting. This, for example, is from your Pets & Pals literature from 1967. And one of the bills that you were working on that was backed by [Assemblyman] John [L.] Burton was the bill that was concerned with the steel traps that were used by the lumber interests.<sup>1</sup>

SARGENT: Yes, the steel jaw traps should be outlawed; they shouldn't be allowed at all. Children have been caught in them. The animals go through horrible suffering. Many of the trappers don't check the traps. Imagine the animals in the heat, can't get out of the heat, or the freezing cold. They can't get to food or water and when they can't get out of the grip of them and they try to struggle, the pain is excruciating. And the wound gets festered and many animals chew off their limb to escape. I can't understand

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 1011, 1967 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 310.

why we can't outlaw these horrible medieval devices.

Nearly every day someone is shot; a sixty-two year old woman who was driving her car near Lake Merritt in Oakland was shot and died. And not long ago a man driving from his anniversary party with his wife was shot. Just driving along! Many people do not cherish life! When we let animals suffer and not care, or even think it's all right. . . . And many children are responsible for cruelty. I can't fathom why many legislators and others cannot see the parallel of cruelty. If we all treated every living creature like we would like to be treated. . . . I suffer along with these people and with the animals. I wonder how we can allow this cruelty to animals to continue when we see it happening to people.

REINIER: When you were working on the bear trap bill, you were up against really powerful interests, the lumbering interests.

SARGENT: Yes. I went up to Eureka not knowing anyone in Eureka. But Pets & Pals had two members who had sent donations; so they planned to meet me. I decided to go up there when I heard about the bears in the steel-jaw traps. An assemblyman by

the name of [Assemblyman Frank P.] Belotti from that district [Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties] went back to his district and talked to some of the breakfast and luncheon clubs, etc., and he said, "Never in the world did I think that Gladdy Sargent would beat me." Because, of course, he was for the lumber interests; they put him in office. And he couldn't believe I could ever get this bill passed. And they didn't believe Burton could help because he was just elected. He went back to Congress with his brother [Congressman A. Phillip Burton]. And then his brother died. And he's back now and elected as an assemblyman. He's my friend and he introduced the bill to stop the trapping of the California bears. No one thought we could get it passed because it was said in the Capitol, "What do those two know about lumber interests up in Eureka? Or anything about the bears when Burton is from San Francisco and Gladdy is from Oakland?" My husband was amazed that I was going to Eureka. He told some of his business friends, "My wife goes in where angels fear to tread."

I started to Eureka but I missed the plane and missed the people who were meeting me at the



airport. But I was lucky. When I missed the plane, I stayed at an airport hotel because there was only one plane to Eureka and it left very early. I got in the hotel car to the hotel in order to be ready the next morning to go out on the early plane to Eureka, the one plane a day. It is odd the way things work out. A man got off a plane from Eureka and got in the car with me, and we started talking. He was the one television man in Eureka. When he found out I was going to Eureka, he telephoned the television station that evening to cover the Fish and Game Commission meeting. He said the lumber interests didn't want their employees at the hearing . . .

REINIER: . . . In Eureka? . . .

SARGENT: . . . In Eureka. Naturally the lumber companies would not want their employees at the hearing because most people in Eureka worked or had some connection with the lumber industry. That was the main industry. Because of the television coverage, the room was filled and people were out in the halls.

REINIER: Did you appear on TV [television]?

SARGENT: I think so; I can't remember that. But the TV cameras were there; so I presume I did.

REINIER: He used television to publicize that the hearing was going to be held.

SARGENT: Yes! And it got the people to the hearing. The people that were appearing for the lumber industry were the Weyerhaeuser [Company], the biggest lumber interest, and others. They came in, I remember, with little pieces of trees and said, "Look what the bears are doing to our trees." And when I testified, I said, "They wouldn't be eating branches of your trees if you fed them. They would rather have bear food than the bark off your trees, but they are starving and you are stripping the forest." So I said, "If you can't afford to feed the bears, fence in an area and I will send food. I understand you stole the land here."

I had a report from New York from Merrill Lynch [Pierce Fenner & Smith, Inc.] showing how they had acquired the land cheap and how much money they were making. I think it was their last financial report. I stood in front of the room testifying and started to read them their report. In the front row were the representatives of the big lumber companies and I started to read the report showing how much money they were making. The representatives

kept standing up and saying, "You are not supposed to read these reports." And I said, "All right, I won't read that again." But I would read the next figures. They had no idea this woman who lobbies without being paid would have their financial report. I kept reading more until I finished their report. When I came back to Sacramento, Assemblyman Burton introduced the bill and we got the bill passed.

REINIER: And you got the bill passed. So, you were able to get support, really, because of that hearing in Eureka. Do you think that was what? . . .

SARGENT: I think it helped! Because, of course, the people in Eureka are for the lumber interests. But it gave us good publicity. And then it was the legislators in Sacramento who voted for the bill. I guess they thought either that I put it over on the lumber companies or the fact that I had the gumption to go to Eureka. The legislators voted for the bill and the bill to stop using the steel-jaw traps to kill the California bears became law.

REINIER: Was there a coalition in the legislature that you could count on for support?

SARGENT: No, I would go around to all eighty assemblymen's offices and forty senators on

every bill. I did most of the lobbying, as I do now. It's hard for me to get around to all of them now, but I try! I used to go to some of the offices more than once on a bill, and I would talk to each one of the legislators.

REINIER: So you were very persistent?

SARGENT: Yes. That's one of the things they publish, that I don't want to take no for an answer.

REINIER: Is that true?

SARGENT: Yes. I think you read that in some of the publicity, did you? One of the newspapers published, "Gladdy Sargent lobbies on the strength of her personality with good humored threats. . . ."

REINIER: I did read that.

SARGENT: But you can't threaten them. He said, ". . . .with good humored threats and compliments." And I guess I do. And sometimes shed tears.

REINIER: We talked about that. [Laughter] So you just lobbied individually from office to office, really. But what about Burton? Did he also lobby with you for that bill? What was his role?

SARGENT: He talked to his friends and he had the bill introduced. The bill has to be introduced by an assemblyman or senator and he has to present it

before the committees, and then I testify before each committee. I think Rita testified for the bill. I didn't know then that you get people who are authorities on the subject of the bill to testify. I didn't get anyone else to testify. We didn't have much help from the humane organizations. I think now we have too many different organizations, too many introducing bills. Instead of people joining Pets & Pals or other humane societies, they start another organization.

REINIER: On the animal rights issue.

SARGENT: Now some of them get together and help each other on bills and there's more letters sent on bills. We didn't have all that help. I used to come home and work until four in the morning, writing Pets & Pals members to write letters or to telephone the legislators. I didn't get help from any other organizations.

REINIER: You didn't have a network of people to get to write in.

SARGENT: No. They have meetings now to discuss the bills. In fact, many of the other organizations sent letters on the puppy mill bill.<sup>1</sup> I had the

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 2001, 1989-90 Reg. Sess. (1989).

puppy mill bill introduced twice and got it all the way through the committees, the assembly floor and the senate floor, but it had to go back to the assembly floor for concurrence because of an amendment, and we lost the bill by one vote. I told you how [Speaker of the Assembly] Willie [L. Brown, Jr.] helped me on the bill, didn't I?

REINIER: Yes, Willie Brown. . . .

SARGENT: On the senate floor, [State Senator] Diane [E.] Watson helped get the bill off of the senate floor. After it passed, she got in the middle of the floor and threw her arms up to me and said, "Gladdy we did it!" And then because of the little amendment, it had to go back to the assembly for concurrence, because the bill had been changed a little. And we lost it by one vote just a few hours before the legislature closed for the whole session, for the year. (Assemblyman [Patrick] Johnston asked if he was listed as a yes vote, but he was a no vote; evidently someone else pushed his button when he was off the floor).

REINIER: I don't think you told me on the tape about Willie Brown. Would you repeat that story for the tape?

SARGENT: Yes. After getting the puppy mill bill out of the consumer committee, this puppy mill bill that I am having introduced again. . . . We have no business allowing puppies to come into California when we're killing all kinds of animals because there are no homes for them. And the taxpayers are paying to kill them in every city and county. Lovely animals--just because there is no home for them. So we certainly don't need more puppies coming into California from these inhumane puppy mills where a poor mother dog is bred and bred continuously and never gets out of her cage, usually a chicken coop. They're not taken care of properly and then the little puppies are shipped too young to stand the trip. It is also a taxpayers' bill because we're paying for all these animals to be put to sleep. Then it's a consumer bill because consumers are paying big money to these pet shops and getting sick puppies. Because they're not bred or cared for properly; the mother dog is overbred and not given good care; the animals are shipped too young. I'm trying to legislate that they shouldn't be shipped under twelve weeks of age. They're supposed to have their shots. That's a

bill I got passed years ago. But it is not being enacted.

REINIER: And in this bill you're trying to stop puppies under three months of age from being imported into the state.

SARGENT: Yes, but I would rather not to have them come in at all. There was a puppy mill bill years ago that we got partly passed. I never used to lose a bill. Now with all the humane people we're losing some bills. [State Senator Robert J.] Lagomarsino, who's now a congressman, put in a puppy mill bill years ago for me.<sup>1</sup> We got it through that puppies should be picked up at the airport because some people who didn't fully pay for the puppy, didn't pick the puppy up--who knows what happened to the puppies--and they were supposed to have their shots and to be certified as to where they came from. Now whether that was bill was enacted, I don't know, but that was the law. Some of these laws are not enacted properly and it's hard for me to know.

REINIER: But didn't you tell me a story about Willie Brown and yourself?

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 1096, 1975-76 Reg. Sess. (1975).



SARGENT: Oh yes. When the recent puppy mill bill came up on the assembly floor, Willie Brown was on the podium and he said, "Gladdy Sargent has been in my office since 7:30 this morning, and in order for me to get her out, please vote for this bill." And the bill passed and went to a senate committee and then the senate floor, but had to come back to the assembly floor (before going to the governor) because of a little amendment.

You have to have (out of eighty) the forty-one votes. Looked like we just had the forty-one votes on the last puppy mill bill when someone changed their vote and we didn't get the bill. I never had so much trouble getting a bill off the assembly floor. It was twice we didn't get it. [Assemblyman] Mike Roos was on the podium when the puppy mill bill came up one time. He had said as the bill came up--which always helps--"This is a good bill; you should vote for it," or something like that. We would get the votes and someone would change. It came up twice; I couldn't believe we didn't get the bill.

Mike Roos came up to me in the hall (after saying it was a good bill) saying, "Gladdy, I'm sorry, I'm not going to be able to vote for your

bill again." I couldn't believe it. The reason he gave was, Assemblyman [Curtis R.] Tucker had just been taken ill and Assemblyman Roos had taken him to the hospital. We didn't know about it at that time; Assemblyman Tucker died. Assemblyman Roos said because of taking Tucker to the hospital, he couldn't vote for the bill. I said, "This is unbelievable. Tucker has nothing to do with the bill." "You don't understand, Gladdy", he said. "When one of your colleagues is ill and asks you not to vote for a bill, then you don't vote for it." I think it was a cop out, but Tucker was mad at me for lobbying against a bulldog bill of his years ago. But every time he saw me, he told people about it and added, "But if I had to hire a lobbyist, I would hire her." His son has taken his office and votes for our bills.

When the bill came up again and Willie was on the podium--he is not always on the podium--he made the statement about me being in his office and to vote for the bill. I really hadn't been there so early, but I was in his outer office. I had been there for days and days. I'm not a paid lobbyist, so I can go through the assembly gate to the assembly floor

and his outer office. He has said since, "Doesn't everyone know that Gladdy has rented the couch?" I had been there for days writing notes to the assemblypersons on the floor because the powerful lobbyists were calling the assemblypersons off the floor to get them to vote against our puppy mill bill. And I was stopping the assemblypersons and sometimes holding on to them, while they were talking to the opponents. Some of them don't want to be called off the floor so I write notes and have a guard take the notes on to the floor as fast as they can. So Willie says, "Gladdy's been here since 7:30 this morning. In order for me to get her out of my office, please vote for this bill." And it went off the floor as I said previously.

REINIER: Good.

SARGENT: Willie does things like that for me. Several times he has helped me.

REINIER: He's a pretty good friend of yours, isn't he?

SARGENT: Yes. And I want everyone to know because there is a commentator on KGO radio talk show who keeps saying, "Get rid of all the incumbents." We should not get rid of all of the legislators, but we should vote against some of them. And he

keeps talking about how Willie gets money. When I go on the TV and the radio on my puppy mill bill, I'm going to broadcast to San Francisco voters that Willie Brown is real humane, has helped me on real humane bills, and he never asked me for any money.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: I told Willie on the podium. He said he could not get a better endorsement than that.

REINIER: I guess not. So it's really friendship that gets you the access to Willie Brown?

SARGENT: I have made friends with most of the legislators, but Willie has also been very humane. They either care about humane bills, care about the animals, or I get some of them to vote for the bills through friendship. But not through money--people talk about how much money legislators ask for--they don't ask me for money. They know I'm working for free and that I'm paying my own expenses. I can't afford to give them money.

REINIER: You're unusual these days in that situation, aren't you?

SARGENT: Very unusual!

REINIER: Are you the only person up there who is just working for free without money to dispense?

SARGENT: People are there on one bill. A group will go up for a particular bill, such as older people for medicare; usually it is for money for themselves. They'll fill up a room for that, but they're just there for the one issue or something else for themselves, or they might go up for one charity. But I don't know of anyone else who lobbies continuously and without compensation. I think that's why so many respect me, particularly when I've done it for years. I don't ask for anything for myself; I've been offered some big lobbying jobs.

REINIER: Oh you have?

SARGENT: But I've never taken them.

REINIER: I'm fascinated by the way that you seem to pursue your bills and then recover from setbacks. Do you remember the dognapping bill in the late 1960s? I think this one was in 1967.<sup>1</sup>

SARGENT: I don't remember too much about it. But they are still stealing dogs and other animals and selling them to the laboratories where they suffer horribly. Mr. Knudsen, from whom I bought the shelter in Lathrop near Stockton, was

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<sup>1</sup>S.B. 624, 1967 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1218.

a licensed animal dealer. He was hiring people to go as far as Washington and Oregon, contacting people who advertised their animal for a good home. No one should advertise their dog or other animal to give for free because people don't value what they get for nothing. They should ask for something and check the new home. If they don't want to take money for their animal, they should take it to an animal organization, say, to Pets & Pals. But make the people pay something. Because number one, some people say, "Oh, but I can't afford it." Well, if they can't afford it, then they shouldn't have a dog or any pet. Because they can't afford to take it to a veterinarian; they can't afford proper food, etc. So it isn't fair to the animal, dog or cat. I don't believe in giving animals free.

For instance, I had a shelter in Lafayette and people were often bringing cats. I'd say, "Why are you giving up the cat?" And quite often they would say, "The cat is chewing and ruining the chairs or the upholstery or the cushions. etc." And I'd say, "Well, how much did you pay for this cat?" "Well, someone gave it to me." I said, "If the cat cost more than

the chair, etc., you'd be giving the chair away instead of the cat." But the cat didn't cost anything and the chair cost some money. "And so you're giving the cat away because it clawed the chair."

REINIER: I wonder if I could just prompt your memory a little bit on this dognapping bill because it seemed that you followed it so persistently. I have it in my notes that it passed the senate but then it was killed in the Assembly Criminal Procedures Committee.

SARGENT: That's right.

REINIER: And you had to lobby the committee to bring the bill back. Do you remember that?

SARGENT: I remember that now; I had forgotten about that bill. I didn't want to lose a bill or take no for an answer. That's another thing the legislators say, "Gladdy is so persistent." Senator Lagomarsino, who is now a congressman from Ventura County, put in a bill for me to make it a felony to steal an animal for research, and Knudsen was put in jail because of that bill. And then I bought Knudsen's home and kennels. When that bill passed, Senator Lagomarsino, a Republican, sent me to Governor Reagan to tell him I worked harder on that bill

than he did on the budget.

REINIER: That's an example of how persistent you were.

SARGENT: As I said before, I don't like to take no for an answer.

REINIER: Another issue that I think was absolutely fascinating in the late sixties was the dog racing issue.

SARGENT: That was a big battle.

REINIER: That was a big battle, wasn't it?

SARGENT: And the only help I had on that was. . . .

[End Tape 3, Side A]

[Begin Tape 3, Side B]

REINIER: On the other side of the tape we were beginning to talk about the dog racing bill.<sup>1</sup> That one was in 1969.

SARGENT: That was the big bill. Horse racing in California is a big revenue for the state. Of course, the horse racing people were against dog racing for a different reason than the suffering of the dogs. If they don't win, some owners have shot their dogs. I remember hearing about a man in Florida--the state that has the most dog racing--when his dog didn't win, he stood up in the stands and shot the dog. But other dogs

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 649 and S.B. 398, 1969-70 Reg. Sess. (1969).



are discarded; few people want them after the races and after the poor dogs have raced so hard. And many of them are doped and trained under terrible conditions, trained to chase and kill rabbits and cats, etc.

Naturally the horse racing people don't want the competition. That's why they were very much against dog racing. And they are very big lobbyists. I lobbied for the humane issues, to help the dogs. The other help was the church lobbyist, but he didn't do it for humane reasons either. He was just against gambling, period. So they didn't carry too much weight, but the horse racing people did. They gave me a great deal of credit. However, their main lobbyist handed me a nice big check and I did not take it. My husband said I shouldn't because I should have held on to it until they gave the check to Pets & Pals. When I asked them to give a check to Pets & Pals, I never received one.

REINIER: Who gave you the check?

SARGENT: It was the big lobbyist--I forget his name--who headed the horse racing lobby. And he was a former judge. He's retired, but occasionally he is in the Capitol. No one stays around as long as I have. I guess I'm the oldest one around

the Capitol. When I return to the Capitol with my walker, I will say because I have lived longer, I know some of these truths.

REINIER: Who was backing dog racing?

SARGENT: They came from Florida; I think it was the mafia.

REINIER: You do really?

SARGENT: Yes. I boarded a plane in Los Angeles and in a few minutes two men sat in back of me and started talking to me about the dog racing bill, that I'd better be careful and my life was on the line. They really scared me. But it didn't keep me from returning to Sacramento and continuing working on the bill. Then I received a phone call; I was in bed as I was just out of the hospital. The caller said if I continued lobbying against the dog racing bill, I would be killed.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: But I told him, "You are not going to stop me because I'm going to fight for the dogs. If I have to die, I'll die with my boots on."

REINIER: Did you report that to anybody?

SARGENT: I told the horse racing lobbyists and around the legislature, but I didn't report it to the police. But anyway, they didn't kill me. I'm

still here.

REINIER: Well, in 1969, you were able to defeat dog racing in the Senate Finance Committee.

SARGENT: Yes, and received a great deal of publicity. A former judge who lobbied for horse racing and a big lobbyist for the liquor and beer industry lobbied for horse racing. They had--I forget the name of it--an exclusive luncheon club for the legislators. They met every week on Thursday--once a month or every other week, a very exclusive club. Invited legislators belonged; their friends or legislators from some special committee were at their luncheons. They met over at the old El Mirador Hotel on the side of the Capitol on N Street. The Senator Hotel on L Street on the other side of the Capitol was very well known, where many of the legislators stayed and where I used to stay. Today the Senator is an office building with a big lobby where they have some big parties. The El Mirador is an old people's home now. The El Mirador Hotel was the other hotel where I used to stay occasionally. And at the El Mirador was the big room where they had the luncheons. I think it was just once a month--it might have been twice a month--and very exclusive. I can remember [State]

Senator [Rose Ann] Vuich, who was the first woman in the senate and is my good friend now. She was taken into this exclusive club as the first woman. They still have the club, I think, but they don't have it at the El Mirador.

REINIER: Is that the Brown Derby Club?

SARGENT: That's it, the Derby Club.

REINIER: The Derby Club.

SARGENT: The Derby Club, yes, yes. How did you know that? I couldn't think of it.

REINIER: Another lobbyist told me about it.

SARGENT: Yes. It was real big, the Derby Club.

REINIER: And there was a woman member of the club?

SARGENT: That was Vuich, the first woman senator. The reason I'm remembering about this club is during the dog racing bill I heard the lobbyist--the former judge--and the liquor lobbyist organized the club. This was before there was any woman in the club, before Senator Vuich was in the club. Several senators decided to surprise the two lobbyists who ran the club and invite me to one of the club's luncheons at the El Mirador Hotel. When I arrived before the luncheon, someone at the door wouldn't let me in. So I sat outside the door of the luncheon room until the senators arrived and they took me in. The

lobbyist who was evidently financing the luncheons--the liquor lobbyist--was very upset that I was invited, a woman at the club. And I said, "Don't worry, I'm not going to stay for lunch, but I was really invited. But you're not going to put me out; I'm going to stay and have a drink." And so I stayed for a while. But I can remember the liquor lobbyist being so upset. The senators who invited me got a big kick out of upsetting this whole luncheon. And that was during the dog racing bill.

REINIER: Did they do it on purpose? To upset the luncheon?

SARGENT: Yes. They thought it was cute because I was helping these lobbyists and did not know about the club. Then this man came out from Florida; he got violent to me in the halls, trying to insult me in the halls. He got drunk. I remember being on television with some of the horse racing lobbyists. It was headlines in the newspapers. Did you see some of the publicity?

REINIER: I saw the publicity and I remember the issue.

SARGENT: It was headlines in The Sacramento Bee. And then the Alameda Times took it up and the [Oakland] Tribune, many different papers. And then recently last year--some one was to send me

the article, but I didn't receive it--the [San Francisco Chronicle] some one told me had an interview with the former judge, the horse racing lobbyist, on the dog racing bill.

REINIER: What was his name?

SARGENT: I can't think of it; I'm so terrible on names. It was a big article. They said there was a great deal about the woman who helped pass the bill against dog racing, but he didn't mention my name. I've mentioned this to the lobbyist when he has occasionally been in the Capitol. That was last year, this big article, and it evidently mentioned the woman who helped defeat dog racing in California. And I brought up that [Governor] Earl Warren--the first District Attorney here in Oakland--used to be a friend of my husband's. In fact, my husband paid for one of his employees to accompany Earl Warren's train when he ran for. . . . Didn't he run for president or what did he run for?

REINIER: I think it was vice president.

SARGENT: I believe it was vice president and my husband had an employee on the train to help elect Earl Warren. But later Warren turned against my husband; I don't know what for and my husband didn't know. Many people thought Warren was no

longer a Republican. I don't think he became a Democrat, but he became very liberal. Many people criticized Warren for that. But I used Warren's name because years ago, long before I knew about dog racing, there was dog racing in El Cerrito.

REINIER: I didn't know that.

SARGENT: And all of kinds of gambling. And it was Earl Warren who closed it down. When I testified against dog racing, I mentioned the dog racer and gambler, Black Jack Jerome. And I mentioned how we had to clean up El Cerrito and all the gambling and other vice and the dog track. All the vice dens that accompany dog racing, what it did to the community.

REINIER: So that was really your argument; it was based on corruption.

SARGENT: Yes, that plus how the dogs were treated. How they couldn't find homes after racing, how they were bred, and how they were uncared for after they were through racing. That they were usually abandoned. And that the dogs are trained killing cats and rabbits, etc.

REINIER: I noticed that the bill was defeated in the Senate Finance Committee in 1969, but then in the publicity that I looked at the issue kept

coming back.

SARGENT: It came back for quite awhile.

REINIER: It did?

SARGENT: But they couldn't get it passed.

REINIER: Was there a powerful lobby later that developed around it? I noticed there was a Garden State Greyhound Association that by 1974 was still trying to lobby for dog racing.

SARGENT: Oh yes, they brought it up several times. Oh yes, I forgot that. They had a big lobbyist come to the Capitol and he opened offices across the street from the Capitol. That's not too many years ago. And every once in a while they talk about dog racing; they're talking about bringing it up again. And when they had the office, I went there and saw it, stocked with all kinds of liquor for entertaining the legislators, trying to get them there. The lobbyist was sure he was going to win, so I really worked hard against dog racing again. There is a Garden City down south where there's a lot of gambling, where they allow it. And they were trying to lobby for dog racing. The dog racing man who was lobbying so hard I thought maybe was going to get dog racing passed just a few years ago. He was sure he was going



to win. He formerly worked for horse racing. I heard he was paid big money to get a dog racing bill passed. He was sure he was going to win. I had a real, real fight against him.

REINIER: You remember who. . . .

SARGENT: I forgot his name but I remember how I worked.

REINIER: The 1974 article said it was backed by southern California interests. It listed Beverly Hills doctors, L.A. businessmen, and Hollywood actors.

SARGENT: Yes, I remember that. They thought sure they were going to win. But I worked hard against them again. But every little while he threatened to get another bill for dog racing introduced. He threatened that he'd get it through the next year, but he didn't.

REINIER: Gladdy, you seemed to be really hitting your stride by the late sixties; that seemed to have been quite a successful period for you.

SARGENT: Yes. There were all kinds of bills then that I either lobbied against or for. I think I was the only lobbyist in the Capitol then for the animals. Rita Del Mar came up less and less and then she died. I think she had cancer.

REINIER: Oh, I see. So in the late sixties you were pretty much working by yourself.

SARGENT: And there were no animal activists around then.

Now I have to smile because many young people think bills helping animals started with them. They say nothing happened until they came along.

REINIER: Oh, there are so many bills here that you were successful in either defeating or getting through.

SARGENT: Yes, I never knew what it was to lose bills then.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: Even though I might not get the bill through, I usually would get an amended bill. It is too bad; I put a bill in to stop bow and arrow hunting (which is so cruel; it shouldn't be allowed at all). I had more coauthors on that bill than ever was on a bill. I had so many coauthors, even had Jesse Unruh who was the Daddy of California. I think I could have had it passed, but Rita Del Mar talked me out of it. She said, "Gladdy,"--I'll never forget this-- "you put bills in without getting all the information." Deer and other wildlife were dying with arrows embedded in their flesh, so I just wanted to push a bill through. And I didn't have to do all that studying. She said, "You have to know more about it. You have to know about bow and arrow hunting. You have to

be able to see the hunting." I couldn't go with hunters and see them drawing their bows on the defenseless animals. I didn't do it with the steel jaw trap bill for the bears. So I shouldn't have listened to her. She said, "We'll have to get some background information and we'll put in a bill next year." Well, it never came up again. So I shouldn't let anyone talk me out of a bill to help the helpless animals.

REINIER: How did you choose who would be the author of a bill?

SARGENT: Oh, I just picked someone like I do now. Whoever I think is interested and who will work with me. I just had several calls to help me find an author for a rodeo bill . . .

[Interruption]

. . . One of the animal rights men wanted to have a bill introduced against the cruelty in the rodeos. It is going to be hard to do because we're supposed to be a wild western state. Rodeos are supposed to be fine entertainment. But it's disgraceful how the animals suffer for our entertainment. They buy some of the horses that would be killed for horse meat. The poor horses they buy cheap, and

after suffering in a show, after the rodeo the horse will become horse meat. They wouldn't buck if the cowboys didn't put the cinch strap so tight, particularly over their genitals, their most sensitive parts. That's why they buck. So that should be stopped, that tight strap. I have been backstage. They invited me one time and sat me at the end of the arena. But I went backstage where the animals were coming in the chute and saw how tight that cinch strap is. Another cruelty is the way they lasso the poor little calves and drag them along. Some of them break their necks. So that should be outlawed. This cruelty should not be entertainment for people.

A humane person was talking of having a bill introduced against some of the cruelty because he's been monitoring many rodeos where the horses have been hurt and the calves and other animals have been hurt. There's supposed to be a veterinarian at the show. Sometimes they have a veterinarian who is friendly to the promoters or no veterinarian at all. I was trying to help find an author for the bill. But they waited too long and time ran out for introducing a bill this session. Many of the

animal rights advocates can't get in to talk to the legislators. They don't know them. So they talk to an aide, which sometimes gets the vote and sometimes doesn't. Sometimes the aide knows how their boss will vote but usually they don't. Or they have to talk their boss into it. Or the lobbyist talks to the secretaries. Or they just leave notes. But you have to be able to talk to the legislator and find out how he's going to vote or talk him into voting your way.

REINIER: So knowing him is really what counts in getting somebody to author your legislation.

SARGENT: That's so important in everything. If you do business with anyone . . . . Any firm I do business with I want to know the president. I want to know the head person and I usually do. That's the way to get things done. If I am in a new restaurant, I ask to speak to the chef.

REINIER: I saw that by the late sixties and early seventies you were beginning to be commended in resolutions that are passed by the assembly and the senate.

SARGENT: I'm glad you brought that up. I was just thinking I was going to ask Willie Brown if he thinks I should be on the podium in the assembly to be commended. It was a real surprise when I

was taken to the senate podium and commended for lobbying for humane issues. As far as I know no other lobbyist has had the honor.

REINIER: Really. Was that in 1970?

SARGENT: I think so. I have a picture of it.<sup>1</sup>

REINIER: Why did that occur? What's the background on that?

SARGENT: I guess because I'm the only lobbyist that has worked without compensation for so long and been so persistent all these years without compensation. I'm not a registered lobbyist. The woman who drives me to the capital works for Fund for Animals and is a registered lobbyist although she doesn't lobby as much as I do. She is very good at looking over the humane bills and writing analysis of bills after we read the bills. Her name is Virginia Handly and she works for Cleveland Amory, the president of Fund for Animals. She's a San Francisco representative for Fund for Animals. Then there's a Rose Lernberg from El Cerrito who is very dedicated. Virginia is paid by Fund for Animals and that is why she has to register. Rose doesn't do the lobbying, but she looks up

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<sup>1</sup>S.R. 203, 1969-70 Reg. Sess.

the bills for us. You would be amazed at the number of bills sometimes; they are not mentioned under animals but affect animals, either for or against. I think there were over a hundred bills last session that had something to do with animals.

Now someone has introduced a bill allowing handicapped people to get free or for a very low fee a hunting license. Why should we encourage them to go hunting, killing our wild life? If they are handicapped, how can some of them shoot straight? And if they wound an animal, they can't follow the animal and put it out of its suffering. We shouldn't be encouraging hunting. We are encouraging young people in the schools by teaching them how to shoot to go hunting. Hunting is a word for killing. How many people are out hunting today? They're not hunting for food. They're out for the pleasure of killing.

REINIER: That's what you said. You mentioned that before.

SARGENT: And so they should be called killers, not hunters.

REINIER: Is that how you choose what you're going to focus on each session? How do you choose the issues that you're going to focus on?

SARGENT: People come to me with all kinds of issues, such as the rodeo, about different cruelties, wherever I think animals are being mistreated or killed or mainly suffering. It's mainly the suffering I'm talking about. I don't believe any living creature should have to suffer for us humans. People bring cruelties to my attention, or on the television, or in the news media, then that's what I focus on. I pick out bills usually in particular and then all the other environmental and animal bills. Now, I have to call someone tonight in Los Angeles because they have Assemblyman [Jack] O'Connell, who is real humane, to introduce a bill against some LSD [lysergic acid diethylamide] testing in the eyes of the rabbits. We have no right to cause animals such horrible suffering because someone thinks they might make a dollar from a product that might cause harm and/or suffering. I think our whole country has been built up on whether you make a profit regardless of what harm is done to us, the animals and/or our environment.

REINIER: That's right, you mentioned that before.

SARGENT: It's been carried too far. I like money as much as the rest of us and we all need money to live on. But we should not think that anyone can do



anything or mistreat anyone or any other animal in order to make a dollar.

REINIER: Gladdy, I noticed that you were just sailing in the 1960s and that most of the efforts that you made were successful ones, but then you seemed to have a little more trouble in the 1970s.

SARGENT: I'm glad you brought that up. In the sixties I had practically no help or very little. On some of the bills, none. Now we have these animal rights people and we are losing bills.

REINIER: Why is that? What caused the change?

SARGENT: Well, I think part of it is, even though there's more people, there has been too much division. I commend these people who are willing to put their life on the line and go into the laboratories. None of us would ever know the terrible suffering of the animals without it. But I wouldn't do it; that isn't my style anyway. And I'm afraid there has been not only more people helping than animals but there has been adverse criticism. Humane people have said they're against all research, and that goes against the humane movement because people are going to say their child is more important than their dog, or something similar. So, statements like that have gone against the humane movement

because some are too extreme. I'm not against all research; I'm against the unnecessary, the repetition. If we would be more realistic as to what we can and can't do and the suffering we can stop.

REINIER: I noticed in 1972 that you had quite a bit of trouble with the vivisection by school children bill that [State] Senator [Albert S.] Al Rodda put forward for you.<sup>1</sup>

SARGENT: I worked five years on that bill . . .

REINIER: . . . Really? . . .

SARGENT: . . . And finally got it passed . . .

REINIER: . . . Finally got it passed.

SARGENT: Because there were so many of these science fairs. . . . Teachers had the idea that children should try scientific projects. It became the thing to do without realizing the consequences. And some of the children did some horrible things to animals in their garages at home, all kinds of terrible cruelties. Cutting up animals, burning, etc., because they thought it was the thing to do. Anything to get a prize. Senator Rodda is very humane. He had been in education for years; he is a wonderful

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<sup>1</sup>S.B. 64, 1971-72 Reg. Sess. (1972).

man. Do you know him?

REINIER: Yes, I do know him. He's still around  
[California State University, Sacramento]  
Sacramento State from time to time.

SARGENT: That's what I thought. He did something in  
education. If you see him, I wish you would  
give him my love or my regards because he is  
special.

REINIER: I will.

SARGENT: And he worked for five years to help me on the  
bill that we finally got passed. There were  
some experiments in the schools, but it mainly  
was exhibitions in the science fairs and many of  
the youngsters were experimenting very cruelly  
on animals. There are some teachers that allow  
it to go on now; we have to watch it. But it's  
against the law. No one should receive a prize  
for cruelty. I saw Senator Rodda a few days  
ago.

REINIER: There was an article in 1972 in the Oakland  
Tribune in which you complained that when the  
Rodda bill died in the assembly it was amid  
"croaks, barks and meows."<sup>1</sup> Is that true?

SARGENT: Yes.

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<sup>1</sup>Ed Salzman, "Pets' Friend Growls at Legislators,"  
Oakland Tribune, August 22, 1972, p. 6E, col. 1-4.

REINIER: What happened?

SARGENT: Some assemblyman thought it was cute to try to be funny. Did it say on the assembly floor?

REINIER: Yes.

SARGENT: Some man thought it was cute. There's always someone trying to show off. There is one man--I forget his name now--he's still an assemblyman from San Diego and he does some silly things on the floor. Some of them make fools of themselves doing that. Now, it's not very often. I haven't heard that happen for a long time. Most of the men would not do that now, although we have some of the Republican assemblymen who are not humane. And it worries me that many of these new younger men are not voting for humane bills. Now I don't know whether it's because they don't know me as well, but I don't think that's true. It might be somewhat. But they haven't maybe let me know them as well, or become as friendly. It seems to be mostly the Republicans. I don't like to say this because I was raised a Republican. They wanted my husband to run for lieutenant governor, but he didn't. Friends said he was too honest. [Laughter] I shouldn't say that. But my husband was a big Republican. Who is the

president that was in trouble?

REINIER: [President Richard M.] Nixon?

SARGENT: Nixon. Even Nixon couldn't do any wrong as far as my husband was concerned. That's how much of a Republican I was raised. And I think I told you that when I was a child, you were a Republican if you had money and if you were poor, you were a Democrat, which isn't true today. Some of the Democrats go too far giving our tax money away. But the Republicans are too much for making a dollar, just like on my puppy mill bill some Republicans said, "Well Gladdy, you might put some pet shop out of business." In other words, the dollar comes before anything, cruel or otherwise. And I feel it's the dollar that made this country and it's going to be the dollar that's going to be our downfall. It's going to be our finale if that's all we think about. Because in the end we can't take the dollars with us.

REINIER: There was an Oakland Tribune article in August of 1972 that was an interview with you. In that article you were complaining about the new breed of legislator. . . .

[End Tape 3, Side B]

[Begin Tape 4, Side A]

REINIER: Gladdy, on the other tape we were talking about your comments in 1972 that you felt there was a new breed of legislators.

SARGENT: Yes, it seems to be the young Republicans--I don't know just how young, some of the new ones. It seems to be they only think of the money, the dollars to be made. I realize that this country was built on the dollar. Did I say that before?

REINIER: Yes.

SARGENT: We all need money to live on, but it isn't everything. If we don't care about our fellow man and other creatures, being kind, and stop a lot of this violence and cruelty to animals, we're not going to survive. I feel that the country was built up on making a dollar and being able to make a living, but not by ruining our environment, cutting too many trees, killing our wildlife and their habitat. Food animals crowded into feed lots instead of roaming on the ground, chickens crowded into cages with the light on constantly for mere production, now alligator farms and ostrich farms for food, etc. etc. Individual Republicans have been humane. But if they call a caucus and decide to vote against a humane bill, then a group of them vote against us. Some of the Republicans said the

puppy mill bill would put the pet shops out of business. But if they are importing sick puppies that never should be born, they should not be able to continue selling these puppies.

REINIER: Do you think that partisanship is more of a factor than it was in earlier years in the legislature?

SARGENT: It seems to be more in the assembly. It seems to be that the Democrats are more humane, but there are individual Democrats who are not humane and individual Republicans who are. But as a whole, more Democrats vote humanely. I know that they say the Democrats give our money away and the Republicans are for making money no matter how. I met our President Bush when he was elected vice president. I never thought a Republican would get elected because of all the scandals in Reagan's administration, even though I knew Reagan when he was governor. Nearly everyone you talked to said--even a lot of black people you would not expect to vote Republican--"I'm making more dollars than I made before." So there it is, scandal, greed, money, not whether the President is capable--the dollar, whether I'm making more than I made before.

REINIER: Did you consider Reagan a friend when he was

governor?

SARGENT: Yes. He was. When he was walking in the halls (with a lot of Republicans following him), he would stop and talk to me. And he signed my bill to stop the trapping of the California bears, even though many people didn't think he was humane when he was president. I had to put two bills through to stop the trapping of the California bears.

REINIER: I didn't realize that.

SARGENT: Yes, one under Brown, Jerry Brown's father, and one under Reagan. Because I didn't know (when I was lobbying alone) the different sections of the law bills go under. Several bills, both the humane slaughter bill and this bear bill, had to be put through twice. Because there were two different sections of the law they were part of. So when one bill was passed, another section of the law had to be covered. The second bear bill was also under Reagan and he signed it. There is a picture in my hallway of Reagan signing the bill.

REINIER: I saw that.

SARGENT: And did I tell you what happened when we were having the picture taken? I asked them to hold the camera . . .



REINIER: . . . No . . .

SARGENT: So I could give Reagan a bear hug. He laughed and turned to one of his aides and said he never met anybody like Gladdy. And the aide said, "You never will." I liked that.

REINIER: That was nice.

SARGENT: Reagan and I were friendly, but I haven't seen him since he left Sacramento. I'm sorry. I've been to Washington twice, once with the Raiders, and went to the White House, and again this last year I received an award for humane lobbying. Neither time was Reagan in Washington. But I would have liked to have seen him. The Raiders were entertained at the Capitol by [United States] Senator [Pete] Wilson, from Los Angeles?

REINIER: San Diego.

SARGENT: San Diego. And he's going to be running for governor. He's a Republican that used to vote for my bills when he was an assemblyman, but when he went to San Diego as mayor, we did not consider him humane. He's not so humane we feel because he attracted a lot of research people to San Diego, different companies doing a lot of research on animals.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: And so that seems to have made a difference.

But when the Raiders went to Washington, he was the one that arranged for us to attend the senate. Of course, we sat upstairs. But I didn't get to talk to him which I would have liked to do. And on this last trip I wasn't there long enough to arrange an interview with him.

REINIER: Now Gladdy, your husband became ill in the early seventies, didn't he?

SARGENT: Yes. He had a couple of strokes. But he worked at home. He had D.A. Sargent & Company; he was one of the finest tax men.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: Up until the time that he died.

REINIER: He died in 1975?

SARGENT: I think it was '74; I can't realize that it was that long ago.

REINIER: Did his illness and death affect your lobbying activities in any way?

SARGENT: No, I just kept on lobbying.

REINIER: You just kept on lobbying.

SARGENT: In fact, the day that he died at the hospital, I had appeared before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. I forget what it was on, but it was something humane. When I went to the hospital, I found that he had died. I ran

around from room to room looking for him--that was a blow--at Providence Hospital. See who I have here?

REINIER: Yes, it's your cat.

SARGENT: Whenever I call Kitty Fay--she was left on my front porch, both of these cats--she comes, but she always wants to sit right on top of me.

REINIER: Wants to sit right on your lap. I wanted to ask you another question that deals with the seventies. Proposition 9, the Fair Political Practices Act, was passed in 1974.<sup>1</sup> Many lobbyists feel that's been a dramatic change for them in the way that they do business. Do you feel that?

SARGENT: I don't think so because I still am not registered. I'm not a regular lobbyist, a paid lobbyist; so I don't think it affected me. It might have on the response of some of the legislators to me, but not me personally.

REINIER: How would it have affected their response to you?

SARGENT: Well, just that, I guess, they have to be more careful as to how they vote. But I don't know that it would affect their votes for me.

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<sup>1</sup>Proposition 9 (June, 1974).

REINIER: A lot of that, of course, had to do with the ten dollar limit on entertaining and that really didn't pertain to you.

SARGENT: No. I remember one of the senators saying someone gave him a clock and he had to check to see what it was worth in order to be very careful. But did you see the latest publicity, a list of all the lobbyists? It was just last year.

REINIER: No, I didn't see that.

SARGENT: Very recent. A list of all these lobbyists and how much money they make, how much money they get from the people who hire them. And they were complaining that even though they get this big money, plus expenses from their clients, they complained the legislators kept asking them for more and more money. I was surprised. That was in The Sacramento Bee, a whole page!

REINIER: I did see that.

SARGENT: And on the opposite page did you see me sitting before a committee yawning?

REINIER: Yes, but I didn't know you then.

SARGENT: That was on the other side. It didn't say that I worked for free, which I do. I think most people would see that I wasn't listed as receiving any money. It wasn't a bad picture,

except my mouth was open because I was yawning. They said they didn't know if I was yelling or yawning. [Laughter] But I didn't know they were taking my picture; I was just sitting.

REINIER: Talking about Prop. 9 in 1974 a little bit more, do you think that the Sacramento scene changed as a result of the Fair Political Practices Act?

SARGENT: Somewhat, to some degree. They had to be more careful about any money they receive. That's when they started these PACs, isn't it?

REINIER: Yes.

SARGENT: Of course, now even the humane people have a PAC. They have what they call PAW PAC. But they have to be careful because anyone who gives money cannot take it off of their income taxes. It's not deductible. A long time ago, my husband offered me the money, if I could get enough of the humane organizations together, to form a deductible organization so they all could lobby. But I couldn't get the humane organizations together. PAW PAC can raise money as long as the donators do not expect to take it as a deduction. I'm not one of the officers or workers in PAW PAC, but I am on the board.

REINIER: I see. So do you. . . .

SARGENT: To raise money for lobbying which is not

deductible. I don't receive any of the money.  
The PAW PAC gives the money.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: I am on the board; but that's all of my  
connection with PAW PAC.

REINIER: Did the atmosphere in Sacramento change with  
Prop. 9 and after the legislature became a full-  
time legislature? In terms of entertaining, for  
example?

SARGENT: Yes, there's not as much entertaining, but, of  
course, some of it still goes on. I remember  
years ago--I didn't do any entertaining--but the  
Raiders gave some big parties at the Senator  
Hotel.

REINIER: Oh, really.

SARGENT: They're not doing it now. I think we gave the  
parties two or three years. When I first went  
to Sacramento, I didn't know about entertaining  
the legislators or about lobbying. I didn't  
know any lobbyists. I didn't know how they  
lobbied. I just did what I thought I ought to  
do. But some of the legislators took me to  
lunch or to dinner and I didn't pay for it.

REINIER: You didn't pay for it?

SARGENT: They paid for it. And they said, "No one will  
believe it when we make a speech in our district

and say, 'We took a lobbyist to lunch and we paid for it.' That's going to be real good for us."

REINIER: Uh-huh.

SARGENT: It's good for them to be able to say that. They said hardly anyone will believe it, but it was true. I was not used to paying for gentlemen. I remember Jesse Unruh and some of the other legislators took me to dinner and Standard Oil or some of the lobbyists for other big companies were paying for it. A lobbyist for Standard Oil saw me having dinner with a group and a legislator, one of the senators, and said, "Don't tell me I am paying for Gladdy Sargent's dinner!" They considered me a rival lobbyist. Jesse Unruh took me to Frank Fat's. One of the lobbyists who was paying for dinner was there, and said, "Do you mean I'm paying for Gladdy's dinner?" Unruh said, "Well, yes, if Gladdy's with me and you're going to pay for mine, you're paying for Gladdy." [Laughter]

REINIER: Did the entertainment seem to quiet down after Prop. 9?

SARGENT: Yes, whether I don't see it or because some of the new assemblymen and senators are not as friendly; they don't take me out. I don't know

whether it's because I've been around before they were elected or whether it's because I am older and not as beautiful as I used to be, whether that's part of it. But I don't see it as much. I doubt that there's as much entertaining as there used to be. But there's still the big money and the big lobbyists. Maybe it's done more quietly. The Senator Hotel is no longer across the street from the Capitol, and the other hotel on N Street. I used to stay in either hotel.

REINIER: In the mid-seventies, another person who seemed to be a good supporter of your bills was [State] Senator John [W.] Holmdahl.

SARGENT: Yes. Previously it was [State] Senator John [A.] Nejedly. When Senator Holmdahl was in college, he worked for my husband. Senator Holmdahl is vice president of Pets & Pals.

REINIER: Oh, I see.

SARGENT: He considered me part of his family.

REINIER: Then he was a close friend.

SARGENT: He became district attorney in Contra Costa County and then a senator. He was very humane, so he always put in a bill for me. Another one was [State] Senator [Donald L.] Grunsky from Watsonville. Every year he asked, "Gladdy, what



bill do you want me to put in for you?" Another one from Santa Barbara was Lagomarsino who has for some time been a congressman.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: I visited his office when I was in Washington last year, but he wasn't in. He has written me a very nice letter which I have to answer because he's very humane. One of the very humane senators from his district, from Ventura County, ran against him for congressman. But Lagomarsino won. [State] Senator [Gary] Hart was the one who ran against Lagomarsino. Senator Hart is still in Sacramento, and he is also very humane. Sometimes they run for another office and can still keep their present office. Other times they lose their present office.

REINIER: Did you share an office with Holmdahl for a while?

SARGENT: No. I have to be careful talking about that because I wasn't supposed to share any office. But I didn't share an office with him.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: But he put in several bills for me. He introduced the bill against people who are cruel

to their own animals.<sup>1</sup> You know, some animals are tied up all the time, which a dog shouldn't be. But if it is, it has to have clean water at all times. Also they have to have shade in the summer, and some shelter from the cold and rain in the winter. They have to have food. And have to be on a leash that will not get caught on a tree or too close to a fence because dogs have hung themselves on fences, etc. It has to be a proper length so they can maneuver around, but not long enough to hang himself on a tree or a fence.

But animals should not be tied up. No one should have an animal if it has to be on a leash all the time. In fact, I just read about a poor dog and he was still on the leash and never was off of it, which is not humane. Animals should not be left out in the bad weather; they should have protection. If an animal isn't part of your family, you shouldn't have a pet. It's disgraceful the way we use animals, particularly dogs, for entertainment, for playthings for our children, for guard dogs, for hunting, and all different reasons, and then not to treat them

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<sup>1</sup>S.B. 1115, 1975-76 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1378 (1975).

humanely. It's a disgrace!

REINIER: And not sleep on your lap like "BJ" is right now.

SARGENT: They are so faithful. Who is a better friend to you than your dog or your pet?

REINIER: That's right.

SARGENT: Who is more loyal?

REINIER: Nobody.

SARGENT: You certainly have the right answer.

REINIER: I noticed that you began doing quite a bit more public speaking by the late 1970s.

SARGENT: Yes. They asked me to speak to Rotary clubs and Kiwanis clubs and other luncheon clubs. So I sort of made the circuit. But I did not ask to be paid, like some of our public officials. So I didn't get paid, but I should have asked. I did get some of the members of the clubs to be Pets & Pals members and\or sponsors.

I just received a letter and check for Pets & Pals yesterday from a man I met at the Superbowl several years ago. He owns a whole town in Massachusetts, Stockbridge. He owns the travel agency, the restaurant, the race track, and the liquor store. Now he bought a home in Florida, Ft. Meyers, and invited me to come and visit. The Superbowl this year was in Miami but

I missed it because of this fall. Yesterday I received the letter and check from him and another invitation, as soon as I'm better, to visit him in Florida and in Stockbridge.

REINIER: You know, your comment before about getting paid made me think of the fact that you've done all this activity as a volunteer. Public speaking, lobbying. . . .

SARGENT: Everything for the animals.

REINIER: Looking back on it, do you think perhaps you should have gotten paid?

SARGENT: Well, I couldn't get paid lobbying for the animals while I was president and founder of Pets & Pals. I never would have gotten all these bills passed because many legislators were not humane minded. I could have received other lobbying jobs. But I think it would have taken away from my successes if they knew I was paid for some lobbying. I'm known in Sacramento as the lobbyist who is not paid. Some legislators have said, "When Gladdy testifies, we know no one is telling her what to say. It's coming from her heart."

REINIER: So being a volunteer has really helped make you a successful . . .

SARGENT: . . . I think so . . .

REINIER: . . . lobbyist. That's very interesting.

SARGENT: I don't know whether it registers with some of the newer legislators as much that I'm doing all this for free. But I'm going around to see all of the new men and women. One of the things that bothers me is the fact that there are more and more assemblywomen who are not humane.

REINIER: Oh really?

SARGENT: Really. I figure that women would have more of a heart. Wouldn't you think so?

REINIER: That's a very interesting question.

SARGENT: I expected they would be, but I'm finding that is not true.

REINIER: You thought because they were women . . .

SARGENT: Because they were women, I thought they would be more sympathetic and more humane. And many of them are not voting for our humane bills. However, this isn't true of all of them. [Assemblywoman Delaine] Eastin, who is from Fremont which is part of former Senator Holmdahl's former district--former Senator Holmdahl is now a justice of California and vice president of Pets & Pals. Delaine is very humane and very intelligent. But some of the women are very disappointing. I let some of them know how I feel and I'm going to let more

of them know.

I talked to Senator Diane Watson, who's very humane, and I asked her if she thought I was right about some of the women. They don't want to appear too sympathetic. They want to show they can do a man's job. I recently told one of the assemblywomen who has not voted for our bills how I felt, and she said, "Oh no, Gladdy." And then voted against us again and said, "I did vote for one of your bills." I said, "Yes, but there's been a lot of humane bills." Now I think she's putting in a humane bill, so maybe our conversation helped. I'm going to have to check and find out.

But I keep trying with those against us--whether it's men or women--for quite a while. Then when I see they are hopelessly inhumane, then I'm no longer friendly. Then I feel I might as well tell them how I feel. Because I'm not getting their votes, so I confront them.

REINIER: Do you get mad at them?

SARGENT: Well, it's a while before I get mad. But I will finally try to get the people in their district to vote against them so they will not be reelected, try to back someone more humane. If I had more time and could drive, I would go into

their districts. I can't always do that, but I try to get someone in their district to work against them.

I just found out, one of the former senators who was always against us, [State Senator H.L.] Richardson--he was our worst enemy; he's a big hunter; he raises hunting dogs--has just resigned as senator, and I heard that his daughter is married to the head of the NRA [National Rifle Association]. He's for all guns and the gun lobby (NRA) and hunting.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: I call him "the great white hunter". I heard he went every year to Africa and had the natives bowing to him as the great white hunter. Did I tell you about him admitting that he shot an animal he said was the most homely animal and brought the head back in order to put it on the wall and put my name under it?

REINIER: I read about that. He called it "Gladys Sargentius."

SARGENT: He changed the name a little--I guess so I couldn't sue him--"Gladys Sargentius." And he killed a water buffalo and put the head on the wall and called it "Jesse Unruh" for Jesse Unruh, who was the state treasurer when he died.

REINIER: For heavens' sakes!

SARGENT: He hung the head on the wall in a hunting club office in the old Senator Hotel which became offices. Then he moved the heads over to his senate office, in his inner office at the Capitol. He didn't want me in his office so he didn't know I was there and saw the head. One of my very good friends who used to help me lobby--her husband is a judge in Los Angeles and a Republican like Richardson and is friendly with Richardson--came to Sacramento to lobby some of our humane bills and went to lobby Richardson and saw my head on his wall. He tried to keep me out, but one day when the secretary was on the phone, I sneaked in and saw my head. He has now resigned as senator and I don't know what happened to the two heads.

REINIER: How did that make you feel?

SARGENT: Well, I just turned it against Richardson, what a fool he was. It turned against him. After he hung the heads in the hunting club, he invited the press in to view the heads. And the night he invited the press in someone from the press called me. So I went with friends the next day to see the heads. We got in after hours. A maintenance man let us in and thought we were



admiring all the dead animals' heads on the walls while we were looking for the two heads. Then back in the corner in of the last room were the two heads of me and Jesse Unruh.

REINIER: Were they labeled? Were there names?

SARGENT: Oh yes. He had invited the press, so it would be in the paper. Then he said I had bribed someone--which wasn't true--to get in the hunting club to see the two heads.

Last year the San Jose Mercury had two reporters interview me and the whole front page and the front page of the second section was pictures. I told you, didn't I?

REINIER: Yes.

SARGENT: A picture of me dancing on the table and underneath it said, "Taking Sacramento by Storm." Then the big article in the second section was, "She Makes the Lawmakers Listen." And there was a big picture across the top of me and Assemblyman [Bill] Bradley, who was one of the most humane Republicans. And then all down the side were four pictures of me with several assemblymen. Assemblyman Bradley died.

REINIER: I'm sorry to hear that. But that publicity must be helpful to you.

SARGENT: I don't know how much good it does, but I

appreciate it. It at least lets people know the humane laws we are working on. And I guess at the time it gets some votes for our bills. Like this puppy mill bill last year that I lost at the last minute by one vote. It is still getting publicity after the bill is lost. So now I'm lobbying another Consumer Pet Protection bill plus two pet shop bills by Assemblyman [Sam] Farr. The lobbyists who are lobbying against us for the pet shops persuaded an assemblyman to introduce a bill to negate our bill. I was supposed to be well by St. Patrick's day, which is tomorrow.

[End Tape 4, Side A]

[Session 4, March 23, 1989]

[Begin Tape 4, Side B]

REINIER: Gladys, I thought today we could talk about the 1980s. Willie Brown became speaker in 1981 and I wondered whether or not you think he's been an effective speaker?

SARGENT: I think he's been very effective. He's being harassed--or whatever you want to call it--particularly by one of the commentators at KGO in San Francisco. I think his name is [Lee] Rogers, and he's broadcasting for people to get organized to vote against all incumbents. It is a foolish thing to do because some of the legislators are very intelligent, hard working, humane legislators and some are not. And I consider Willie one of the most intelligent and very humane legislators in Sacramento. He's voted against some of the big lobbyists. He invited me up on the podium to speak for the humane bills. And he's never asked me for any money. So no one can tell me he only works for people who give a lot of money. I found him to

be very cooperative; he's helped me a great deal.

And so has Senator Roberti on the senate side. He's very humane and put in some very humane bills. I can remember years ago Senator Roberti putting [State] Senator [Nicholas C.] Petris in his place in a committee. Petris is doing much better than formerly; he's voting humanely usually, but he won't vote against the University of California no matter what they do to the animals. The first time I was aware of Senator Roberti, how humane he is, Senator Roberti was the chairman of a committee. I can't remember what bill I had, but I was waiting for my bill to come up, one of the humane bills. And Senator Petris was in the back of the room waiting to present a bill. They started to bring up my bill and Senator Petris comes quickly to the front of the committee and says, "I've been sitting here waiting for a long time to present a people's bill and you're spending a long time on an animal bill. In all due respect to Gladdy". . . . Then Senator Petris went on to say--evidently Petris is supposed to know a great deal about taxes and my husband was one of the top tax men

in the country--"Her husband's a very smart tax man," which had nothing to do with my bill or with me at the time. I'll never forget; Senator Roberti spoke up and said, "Senator, sit down. A lot of us have many people's bills, but this is an animal bill that Gladdy has and we're going to go on spending some time on it and try to get it passed." And I never forgot that. I haven't thought to tell Nicholas Petris, so when I go up again, I'm going to remind him of that incident.

REINIER: Some people talk about the new class of legislators that came in with Proposition 13 in 1978.<sup>1</sup> How did you find it to work with that new young group?

SARGENT: Well, some of the new young Republicans haven't been very humane and I feel badly. They say the Democrats give too much money away and the Republicans are too much for making money, no matter how you make it. Did I tell you my father and my husband were Republicans?

REINIER: We did talk about that.

SARGENT: And I was raised a Republican. But, I'm amazed that the Republicans seem to put money before

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<sup>1</sup>Proposition 13 (June, 1978).

anything else. I like money as well as anyone and we need it to live on. But if all this country thinks about is making money, no matter what you do to the environment, the animals, other people, etc., then that's what is wrong with the world. This country was built up on the belief that if you come to this country and work hard, you can make lots of money. The idea being, do anything to anyone else, getting the best of them, and thinking it's smart, as long as you make money. We look up to people just because they have money, not whether they are decent human beings or whether they got their money in an honest way. We can't take it with us when we leave this world. If there is any afterlife, then all we will have is how we treated other people and every other living creature. And how decent we were and how we made our money. If we go on just thinking of making money no matter what we do to the environment, then that's going to be the ruination of the world.

When I had the pet shop bill introduced, which I'm doing again, some of the Republicans-- not all of them, some of them are humane, but as a group when they call for a caucus, they tell

the Republicans how to vote on a bill--some of the Republicans said I was trying to put the pet shops out of business and so voted against the bill even though sick puppies were being imported, sold and killed. Well, why shouldn't we put pet shops out of business if they're importing, selling and killing animals? It's not only a humane bill, but it was a consumer bill; people were getting sick animals. But I'm interested in the poor little animals suffering, being returned sick to the pet shop that is contaminated with disease. One of the TV stations in Sacramento went to a pet shop just after the bill lost at the last minute. They said the odor was so bad, they could hardly go in because of the stench. And they found sacks and sacks of dead little puppies that never should have been born in these puppy mills. The poor mother never should have been put through this breeding continuously, never out of the chicken coop cage. And then puppies being shipped too young just for somebody to make a profit. If that's the way we have to make our money, then we better stop.

REINIER: Gladdy, another change that occurred by the 1970s and 1980s is that there were more women in

the legislature. Did you find it different to work with the women legislators than you did with the men?

SARGENT: I hate to say this. I don't know whether it's my personality; I don't think so. I thought the women would be more compassionate and have feelings for the suffering animals. I don't find it that way. Of course, there are always exceptions and individuals. Senator Diane Watson couldn't be more humane. She's just wonderful. Senator Vuich is a friend of mine. I like her; I've even stayed at her home. She's humane to a point. Of course, they have to think of their particular district, I realize that. She comes from a farming community. It's just unfortunate that the very people that make most of their money from animals, the farming people, are not humane.

REINIER: Why not?

SARGENT: They think of the dollars. Vuich comes from the Fresno district and I realize that sometimes she can't vote for the humane bills. But to get back to the women, I'm amazed at so many of them not voting for humane bills. We're having a job to get their votes. And I try to appeal to their femininity, thinking they'd be more



sympathetic. They don't seem to be. And I think part of it--I've talked to some women and they think I'm right--is that they don't want to appear too sentimental, having sympathy for the animals. I think they're bending over the other way to show the men that they can be not so sympathetic and can do a man's job. I've spoken to some of them and they've agreed with me. I guess they don't all agree; I'm finding that out. So I'm going to be talking to more of them, let them know how I feel and see if they agree with me and\or will vote humanely.

I think it was Doris Allen who put in a bill which we felt very strongly against. Anybody that interfered and tried to save an animal from a hunter would be arrested and fined.<sup>1</sup> Some constituent of hers, I think it was a dentist. . . . By the way, I'm amazed at the number of doctors that are hunters. I can see why they're not so sympathetic to people if they think it's fun to kill animals. You know we shouldn't just use the word "hunter." Hunter used to be when Indians had to hunt for their food. We don't have to go out and hunt for our

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 3156, 1987-88 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1278 (1988).

food today; that's ridiculous. So, it's the fun of going out and killing. I was just reading about a gun club trying to get a lot of farmers and others to open their property to hunting, let's say, to killing more animals.

REINIER: Now, what was the bill that Doris Allen backed?

SARGENT: For instance, if I saw some one trying to shoot a big horn sheep or other animal and tried to protect the animal, I'd be interfering with his hunting--his killing--and I could be arrested and fined. Of course, we were against the bill. A girl and two men came to me at the Capitol about this bill because they tried to protect the big horn sheep (which I'd been protecting with bills for years and now they are being hunted again). This dentist thought they were interfering with his hunting and I understand threw them in a horse cart, held them. And they were arrested and fined.

REINIER: You mean the people?

SARGENT: Yes, just incredible. Trying to protect an animal. So I testified. This is the man that evidently asked for the bill. And when I appeared against the bill, I said, "What are you going to do to me? If I saw him trying to shoot an animal and I could protect that animal, I'd

protect it if I could." I guess he'd shoot me. In the first committee she got it passed, but when it went to Ways and Means [Committee], we defeated the bill.

REINIER: How did you defeat it?

SARGENT: I did the lobbying and got the votes. And then she told me she realized that she hadn't voted for many of my bills, but she felt real good that I was walking the halls for the animals. Of course, that doesn't help me help the animals on the bills. And she said she wouldn't pursue the bill unless her constituent came to the hearing. But he did come and she did pursue the bill. But after we defeated it in the second committee, I went to her and said, "I thought if the sponsor of the bill didn't pursue it, you wouldn't pursue the bill, and now you've lost the bill and you're still trying to get the legislators to change their votes." So she said, "All right, Gladdy, you've won fair and square"--those were her words to me--and she left the room and went down the hall to her office. Assemblyman [William P.] Baker from Contra Costa County wanted her vote on something else--and I know what the something else was--so he said, "Where is she? We'll reconsider the

bill."

REINIER: Ooooh!

SARGENT: And I said, "She's gone." But he sent someone after her. They got her back and they had quite a talk. Then they brought the bill up for reconsideration. And the next week the bill was voted out.

REINIER: Voted out.

SARGENT: Yes. So she got the bill after all of my work. Now I think she's putting another bill in. I thought it was to soften the bill, but it's worse, which I will have to check.

REINIER: Are you willing to tell us what she voted for in order to get that bill reconsidered?

SARGENT: Well, that was the bill making it tougher on these young people that he threw in the horse cart and got arrested and fined.

REINIER: No, I mean what she traded. Are you willing to tell us what she traded?

SARGENT: No, because she says she did not vote for what they wanted.

REINIER: OK.

SARGENT: I can't very well tell you because it was given to me confidential.

REINIER: OK. Now Gladdy, do you use different tactics with the women than you do with the men?

SARGENT: Yes, I think you have to. In fact, my lobbying isn't all the same with the men. I try to use tactics. When I say tactics, I try to approach the men with what I think they will be interested in, or how they vote usually, if they're real humane or not so humane. For instance, there's an assemblyman by the name of Assemblyman [David G.] Kelly. When he first came to the Capitol--I think he has forgotten; I tried to remind him--he came to a Raider party and told me that he would vote for my bills, but now he votes against practically everything humane. I found out that he is in the nursery business. A lot of the people in gardens don't want to have any animals around to interfere with their gardening. He let me know that he has this nursery and his son is managing the business. But he's against all our bills. At least he did see me, but he voted against our bills again. He votes against everything; he's just inhumane. I found out that he's from the Palm Springs district. I have a lot of friends that have homes there, and I used to be down there a lot. And I understand that there's a Rabbi Horowitz who is trying to make him more humane.

REINIER: Oh, really.

SARGENT: And I've got to get in touch with him. I don't know what his relationship with Kelly is, but he is in Kelly's district.

REINIER: We were talking about the tactics that you use with women. And you said that you did approach the women differently than you did the men.

SARGENT: I just realized that I haven't gone to see many of them lately because I feel like it just isn't any use, except for those that are my particular friends. Some of them have been very humane. But as a majority, the new women. . . . Now right after I got started, [Assemblywoman] Pauline [L.] Davis was the first woman up there.

REINIER: Yes.

SARGENT: She was the only assemblywoman. Do you know who she was? Her husband was the head of Fish and Game [Committee] which is really our enemy. That's where not only the fishermen but the big hunters are represented. And her husband was head of that. When he died, she was appointed in his place. And she became very humane, as much as she possibly could. Of course, she was from the district where hunters and fishermen are, in the north, Redding and up there. But she became my friend. There's an incident that

I'll never forget. When I was first up there on the humane slaughter bill, I remember going by her door. I really didn't know the operation or anything about the back door from the front door at the Capitol. I just stopped in at one of the Fish and Game Committee meetings. Pauline Davis was running it and I didn't know her at all.

REINIER: She was Chair of the Fish and Game [Committee]?

SARGENT: She was the chairman of it. I don't remember the assemblyman's name, but he was from San Pedro where all the fishermen are, the docks down there. So he was representing the fishermen. And while I was sitting there, he brought up a bill to kill the sea lions. The excuse was they were eating the salmon. This was for the fishermen. Did I tell you this before?

REINIER: No.

SARGENT: All I knew about sea lions was I've seen them at the Cliff House in San Francisco. They were just on those rocks there; why would you kill sea lions? So without realizing--I knew nothing else about the bill or the committee or the chairman--I just walked up to the committee and said, "You just can't kill the sea lions; that's ridiculous." And later Pauline, after the

committee meeting was over, followed me down the hall and got the biggest kick out of it. She said, "We got the biggest kick out of you." Because I was always all dressed up and I'm noted for my hats.

REINIER: Yes.

SARGENT: I had beautiful hats. I don't go up there without a hat or they don't know me. I had a beautiful hat on and went up to the front. She said, "You just took us by surprise. We just thought, where did you come from? Out of the woodwork? Nobody had seen you around before." They didn't know me from Adam. I'll never forget.

Of course, the medical lobby is very strong and at that time their tactics were to make fun of people. At that time they made fun of anybody helping animals. They used to talk about little old ladies in tennis shoes. Number one, I didn't wear tennis shoes. And number two, I was not little or an old lady then. They couldn't say that then. In the back of the room was the medical lobby, which I, of course, didn't know at all. They used to do this, too, on the floor sometimes. The minute I spoke up they started barking like sea lions.



REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: If you can imagine, the medical lobby, in the back of the room. Of course, I didn't know who they were from Adam either.

REINIER: In the committee room?

SARGENT: Yes. And she talked about this, but that was all to my advantage then. I don't know where I got the courage, but I just stood there and turned around and I said, "Well, I didn't know that there were little kids up here playing. My husband told me that you were all grown men." Well, of course, this really put them in their place. And she said they were so taken back with my bravery, standing there all dressed up, that they completely forgot to second the bill. And it went down the drain. [Laughter] She said they all just sat there. She called for a second and nobody seconded. So that was the end of the bill. She thought I was pretty smart. They thought I had that all mapped out. And it was only that I just went by the room and decided to see what was going on. I didn't even know what committee it was. So she became my friend and helped me wherever she could, even though in her district were the big hunters. So that's when I started going against the hunters

and anybody that was killing any animals.

REINIER: Were there other women legislators that you considered your friends?

SARGENT: No, not too much. At that time she was the only assemblywoman. Diane Watson. . . .

Incidentally, I must remind them; last year Diane Watson and Willie Brown suggested making me "Woman of the Year" for the state.

REINIER: Yes, you mentioned that. So Diane Watson has been a friend of yours?

SARGENT: Oh yes. She's very humane. She is head of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. She's been as helpful as she could have been to me.

REINIER: When we're talking about the women like this, Gladdy, the seventies was the time when there was the rise of contemporary feminism. Do you consider yourself a feminist?

SARGENT: No, I don't. I just feel it's good that women have been able to reach their potential. I realize that, when I was in my twenties and thirties, if I'd had more of this women's lib, or whatever you want to call it, I would have gone into business and not done just what my husband said and just sign any papers he said to sign. Because I didn't inherit his business; I just let it go. I lost a lot of money. He

turned it over to his employees and I didn't fight for it. And I helped build it up. I wouldn't have just stayed helping my husband. I was offered half interest in hotels. I would have made money on my own and done much better. I also took a real estate course and my husband talked me out of finishing it. And everybody said I would have been good selling real estate. His mother was very good in real estate and I would have acquired properties and have far more money than I have. But anyway, I just feel that you can only live in one house at a time and eat so much food and wear so many clothes. And if you have some money to travel on, that's, I think, enough. But when I see the millions people have now. . . . I was just reading about the millions, I think one hundred million, Assemblyman Tom Hayden will get from his wife. You know he's married to . . .

REINIER: . . . Jane Fonda . . .

SARGENT: . . . Jane Fonda. She's made millions and millions, not only from her movies, but more so from this [aerobic] exercise.

REINIER: Yes. Is Tom Hayden supportive of your bills?

SARGENT: Very. Tom Hayden is very humane. So, I'll hate to lose him. I understand he's going to run for

insurance [commissioner].

REINIER: I've heard that too.

SARGENT: And I hate to lose him because he's very, very humane. He sent me flowers too.

REINIER: Who are some of the other assemblymen or senators who have been supportive of you?

SARGENT: An assemblyman is [Assemblyman] Tom Bates. You know, he is [married to Loni Hancock] the mayor of Berkeley.

REINIER: Yes. He's my assemblyman.

SARGENT: Well, I've just found out he was in the hospital while I was. Had appendicitis. And despite of that he sent flowers and a letter. So he's very humane. Now he had a bill last year for the poor little calves.<sup>1</sup> It's just terrible what they're doing. And this is what I can't understand. The farmers are the ones that make the money from the animals, and they're one of the worst against us. All they think about is the dollar. Of course, now that the little farms are broken up and there's more of this big factory farming, it's very bad for the animals. The poor chickens, they're not out on the ground at all; they're on wire. Imagine how it is for

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 2653, 1987-88 Reg. Sess. (1988).

them to stand and sleep on that wire. Crowded into cages, lights on all the time, so they produce more [eggs].

These animals, the stress they go through. Imagine, when you eat their flesh, you're going to get some of that. So, it's not only the factory farming, it's the stress they're going through. They're not out on the grass. The little calves are taken away from their mothers too soon. They don't get the milk from the mothers; they're fed a lot of antibiotics. They say the calves chew the wood around their cages because they're not getting the right food. They can't even turn or lay down. Now when we do this to the animals, we're going to get paid back. I've said this all along. I hate to say this because I'm so optimistic usually, but I really feel we're building up a Roman Empire.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: The Romans overate, overdrank, overindulged, and they threw the slaves to the wild animals. And we're doing the same thing; only we're throwing the animals to the people. We're not protecting and being fair to them when they're giving their lives to us. You know, if we have stress, it does something to the whole body. We're just

beginning to see that we're getting poisoned by what stress does to the animals we eat. We're letting the producers do it as long as they can make a dollar off of it. And in the meantime we're getting poisoned. We're trying chemicals out on the animals to see if they're OK for us and in turn we're getting poisoned.

REINIER: Do you think dollars are really the key issue for the legislature in the 1980s?

SARGENT: They are for everyone. I know Bush, and I know Reagan. I didn't think there was a chance of the Republicans being elected this time when all that scandal came out about different people in Reagan's administration. It's just been on the air about what's his name, North?

REINIER: Oliver North.

SARGENT: Oliver North's secretary, Fawn Hall, is crying today on the stand.

REINIER: Oh really?

SARGENT: Oh yes. It was on the air today that even though she likes North, she has to admit that she got rid of all kinds of papers. Did you hear that?

REINIER: Yes, I did.

SARGENT: And changed them all--which was against the law--to protect him. And with all that scandal I

never thought that a Republican could be elected again. And Bush particularly. And they're saying now that Bush knew about this [the Iran-Contra scandal]. They know now that Reagan knew about it, and he couldn't have known it without his vice president knowing it. So this is coming out now. How the Republicans got elected [in 1988] is that everybody--even black people, usually Democratic--said, "Well, I was making more dollars than I did last year." So, it was all the dollar.

REINIER: What about Governor [George] Deukmejian since he's been in office? I saw an article in 1987 where he thought you were one of the most effective lobbyists in Sacramento.

SARGENT: He tells me that, but he doesn't vote for some of the humane bills.

REINIER: He's not supportive of your bills.

SARGENT: Well, I have to say that he's voted for some of my bills.

REINIER: He has?

SARGENT: But as a whole, he's not considered by the animal people as being animal minded. We don't like the people he's put on the Fish and Game [Commission] at all. The people he's appointed haven't been fair. But he has voted for some of

my bills.

[End Tape 4, Side B]

[Begin Tape 5, Side A]

REINIER: Gladdy, we were just talking about Governor Deukemejian and you said that he, in jest I suppose, suggested naming you to the Fish and Game Commission.

SARGENT: No, he didn't do it. I suggested it.

REINIER: Oh, you did.

SARGENT: He granted me an interview. I go in all the time to [Jacqueline] Jackie [Habecker, the governor's receptionist] at the desk, and I write him notes. She says that he gets all my notes. And once in a while he answers me and they try to get in touch with me. I guess it was last year or the year before, I had an interview with him and I got talking about things generally. And he said, "Gladdy, I thought you came in to talk to me about something specific, wanting some special favor." And I said, "Yes. I'd like someone humane to be appointed to the Fish and Game [Commission] because they're just not humane." They just want to kill the animals, kill the mountain lions, kill everything. It all seems to be for the hunters. He said, "All right, who do you



suggest?" And I said, "How about me?" And he said, "Oh my goodness, what an upset. That would really be a. . . ." I said, "Well, that's what they need."

REINIER: You care a lot, then, about who's appointed to the Fish and Game Commission. Are there other appointments that you work to influence?

SARGENT: Right now I've just been called. . . . I don't know whether you've heard about some of the convicts, who are in the farms and have been arrested for minor offenses, they put them out doing work. They have some of them up in Humboldt County. One of the overseers, I think his name was [ ] Dillis, had--I don't know whether it was his or the group's dog--this little bulldog. It was sleeping with the stray cats and wouldn't hurt them at all; they slept on the same chair. One of the guards, if you can imagine, who's supposed to be guarding these prisoners on this work force, made the fellows throw the cats at the dog. They put the dog in a room and threw the cats at the dog. Naturally, if they scratched him, he went after them. They made him kill all kinds of these cats. And Dillis, who is humane, complained. And they just laughed at him. Not only that,

when the children and the wives came to visit the prisoners, they showed films about how they made the men kill animals for food and laughed about it. Showing the children of these prisoners!

I was sent this information because they even, I think, demoted Dillis. They wouldn't do anything to try and correct it or be humane. And the information didn't come out. So when I got it, I gave it to the Santa Rosa papers. Then people got up in arms about it, but it was too late to do anything about it. And so I wrote the governor, but I haven't heard. There was going to be a meeting that I couldn't go to up there, that something should have been done. But nothing was done except to lower their pay. And now they're having a meeting to try and reinstate that. So, I'm very much amazed that these men are able to keep their jobs and get promoted.

REINIER: The appointment that you are talking about there is really the prison guards, isn't it? Are there other political appointments that are important to you?

SARGENT: The reason this is important to us, too, is that it was in the [Department of Forestry]

forestry department which takes care of animals and our environment.

REINIER: I see. How did you try to influence appointments?

SARGENT: Well, you can talk to the governor who makes them. But in some cases, like the head of the Fish and Game [Commission], they're going to have to be ratified by the senate and the assembly. So when I go up there, I want to talk to Roberti of the Senate Rules [Committee] and to the assembly, particularly to the Rules Committee. Both the heads of the Rules [Committees] listen to me. [Assemblyman] Tom Bane is head of the Rules [Committee] in the assembly. He's been a good friend and very humane, votes for all my bills. And so is Roberti, head of the Rules [Committee] in the senate. They have a vote on ratifying these positions. So I hope it hasn't been done before I can get up there.

REINIER: Because then you could defeat the appointments .

. . .

SARGENT: . . . At least I can try . . .

REINIER: . . . That you're interested in. One of the interesting issues that you've worked on in the 1980s is the performing animals issue.

SARGENT: Yes. I heard from Pat Derby; she and Ed [Derby] have this place now in Galt. Pets & Pals has loaned them \$25,000 to help pay for the property. They're hoping to get a grant to pay us back. They had the cougar that sold the cougar cars. I didn't realize how much money these animals make for the trainers and the owners. A lot of former movie stars and other people have bought these animals. If they're not treated right the rest of their lives, we have no right using them. We have no right using them and then forsaking them. These animals, I understand, make tremendous money for one time on TV or in the movies. I guess you knew that was another bill we had in.<sup>1</sup>

I recently read how they trip the horses in the movies to make them fall. A lot of them were killed or hurt badly. They tried to cover it up. If people saw that sequence, they would know something was wrong, the way the horse fell off the cliff. And they wanted to cover it up. Some of the animals suffer badly!

Then the awful part of it is, when they can't perform any longer, a lot of them are

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 1189 1987-88 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1231 (1987).

discarded. Just thrown out and mistreated badly. I've heard that of some animals that have made a lot of money for their trainer, one of them he killed; another one, they say, is in a dirty kennel just slowly going out of its mind.

So I felt that when these animals make this big money, at least 1 percent, which is little enough, should go towards their upkeep when they can no longer perform. If that particular trainer wants to do it, then he gets the money, or somebody else does. I have a shelter up at Lathrop, ten miles this side of Stockton. They can't expect us to feed and take care of the animals the rest of their lives. But we have to do it if they won't do it; otherwise those poor animals are discarded. They had the oldest bear in captivity up at Galt, at Pat Derby's, where they're taking in a lot of these discarded animals. They just recently went up north to Seattle and brought down several bears and different animals. They had the oldest bear in captivity and I adopted him; I was paying for his keep. I think you saw a colored picture of him.

REINIER: I did. You were giving him a bath.

SARGENT: I was giving him a bath. Since then he has

died. That bear was the sweetest bear--it was called Sweet William--but his trainer burnt his paws. When you see animals dancing, they burn their paws--not always--but that's the way they train them. They do some bad things. Then the trainer broke the bear's nose and the bear turned on him; he was going to kill him. So they had him up at Galt until he recently died.

REINIER: Didn't I see some reference that you wanted to bring Sweet William to the legislature?

SARGENT: Yes. Pat told me about how all these animals are treated. So we put the bill in.

Assemblyman Bradley, who is a Republican but is very humane, put the bill in for me. No one thought I'd get it through. Every time I went up there the humane people said, "You'll never get it." And then they thought the governor wouldn't sign it, but he did. But the awful part of it is, it isn't doing much good because the union. . . . What do you call the union that does the transportation?

REINIER: The teamsters.

SARGENT: The powerful teamsters union got the pension taken out. I thought, "What do they have to do with it?" It's because they use the teamsters to transport the animals on to the lots. So

they got the 1 percent pension taken out.

That's little enough. The trainers could keep that money if they were the ones that were going to take care of the animals.

REINIER: So the teamsters lobbied to have the 1 percent pension taken out of it. For heaven's sakes.

SARGENT: And they're pretty powerful. So it hasn't done much good. I'm the one that's putting the money towards it, loaning this \$25,000. I started a fund for it but we haven't had many people give any money.

REINIER: You know, Gladdy, you're up against pretty powerful lobbyists, the medical lobby and the teamsters, for example.

SARGENT: Yes, and the big insurance lobbyist. I think ten different men fought me on the puppy mill bill. And, in spite of them, I got it all through the assembly committee, off the assembly floor--after about three tries when Willie helped me--out of the senate. Incidentally, [State] Senator [Ed] Davis from Los Angeles and [State] Senator [John] Doolittle from up north, who's very inhumane--Davis is not that bad, but I knew he was doing it for the insurance lobbyists--tried to put amendments on the bill on the senate floor. And while I was sitting

outside sending notes in to the senators, Senator Davis came off the floor, went up to the big insurance lobbyist, one of the biggest up there, and said "I've done all I can do; she's got too much power." And I was sitting right there. So we got it off the floor. And another senator, who's a Republican, [State Senator William A.] Craven, said to me, "Gladdy, they're putting this bill out. It's your friends on the senate floor who are putting this bill out for you." He said, "You've got a whole lot of friends."

REINIER: Why did the insurance lobby oppose the puppy mill bill?

SARGENT: Because they were paid by Doktors and Petland, and the big chain pet shops. They were given good money. And the Doktors Pet Shops are being sued right now, in fact, by people who've gotten sick animals. They charge around \$500 for them, and the animals are sick because the poor mother never gets out of the cages. Now we're trying to stop these puppy mills; they have no business breeding animals.

Why are we bringing more animals in here when every day beautiful animals in every pound in every city are put to sleep? I try to make



people see that this is not only an animal bill for humane people but it was a consumers' bill for those who are getting sick animals--now they're finding it out and suing them--and a tax payers' bill. We're paying to kill all kinds of animals just because there is no home for them. Certainly we don't need more animals when we have beautiful animals. My shelter is full of dogs and cats. I understand now we have some turkeys and bunnies, too.

REINIER: Gladdy, do you ever get together with other lobbyists and try to negotiate with them?

SARGENT: No. The lobbyists on wild life talk to us sometimes; we were meeting together on a bird bill. But, usually, I just oppose them. And when I see the hunters up there I call them "killers." If they're new ones, they come up and say, "So you're the one we're fighting."

REINIER: Do you try to work out the details of the bill before it gets to the committee?

SARGENT: Sometimes, but my friend, Virginia Handly who works for Cleveland Amory in the Fund for Animals, does that. She's the one that goes over the bills and their wording more than I do. I'm mainly the one that goes to get the votes.

REINIER: So your main task is working with the

legislators.

SARGENT: Yes. To get their votes and lobby them and talk before the committee.

REINIER: So most of your work is done, really, in front of the committee. You appear quite a bit, don't you?

SARGENT: Yes. I'd say that most of it is going to see them to get their votes and talk to them about the bills. Right now Assemblyman [Richard] Polanco, who is usually a humane man voting for our bills, our opposition on the puppy mill bill has gotten him to put in a bill. It's right here: "Existing law requires all dogs and cats received by retail dealers as defined prior to being placed with other dogs and cats to be examined for sickness." They're referring to my bill from years ago. I got part of it through. Then I lost this new one by a couple of votes just before the legislature adjourned.

So, I'm putting it in again, plus a pet shop bill. I don't feel pet shops have any right to have live animals or birds if they don't have a separate room for sick ones. Because if one's sick, they're all sick. And they need somebody working for them who cares about the animals and knows how to take care of

them. Most of them don't even know they're giving out a sick animal. If animals are sick, sometimes they put them in the back room and kill them.

On the bill to answer our bill now, they're trying to say, if you get a sick animal, bring it right back. They're not talking at all about that poor animal suffering. They could take it to a veterinarian, and the veterinarian for a few cents could put it to sleep. But no, in order to prove they gave them a sick animal, bring it back. Well, what do they do when it's a sick animal and they bring it back? Either sell it to someone else or kill it there and contaminate all the other animals. So I'm trying to add this pet shop bill to the puppy mill bill I had before. And Assemblyman Polanco is putting a bill in, the opposition one, saying they'll do a little something with the veterinarians just to keep us from getting the bill through.<sup>1</sup>

REINIER: Is that a common tactic for somebody to put through a bill that doesn't really have all of the provisions that you want?

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 786, 1988-89 Reg. Sess. (1989).

SARGENT: Oh yes, and try to kill your bill.

REINIER: And try to kill yours. Yes.

SARGENT: I didn't know whether Assemblyman Polanco, who has been humane, realized what he was doing; but he's done it for the opposition. So I've written him a note. His aide called me and they're going to try to meet with Assemblyman Farr's office that has my bill and see if they can work something out so we didn't have one conflicting with the other. Because if this is an easier bill to pass and the legislators think they're being humane, they're liable to throw this in and sit on my bill.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: But this is what the opposition offered me and I turned them down.

REINIER: I see. What's the opposition on this one? Is this the pet shops?

SARGENT: Yes, this is the insurance lobbyist, the big lobbyist that is being paid good money to represent the pet shops. You can see there's good money to be made. They're paying out big money.

REINIER: So what you did was to step in and try to get some negotiation going that would tie the bill that you want in with this one.

SARGENT: I'd like them to drop this bill.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: I asked him to. In fact, I sent a note up saying, "I appreciate how humane you've been. I wonder if you thought you were being humane with this bill. You're just hurting us to get the right kind of a bill through to stop the puppy mill." So his aide said they would meet with the aide to Assemblyman Farr that has the bill that I want. But they're finding that they're getting a lot of humane opposition to this, she [the aide] admitted that to me. But I haven't had the return call. She said she was going to have to go to Los Angeles. And, of course, this week they're out. This is Easter week, so they're not up there. They'll be back Monday.

REINIER: Gladly, through the years who are the individuals that you found the most supportive of your humane activities?

SARGENT: Well, one was [State] Senator [Fred S.] Farr from Carmel, whose son is now the Assemblyman, Sam Farr. Fred Farr was a lawyer in Carmel; I think he's just retired. But, Sam, the assemblyman, is the one now that has my pet shop bill. And then Senator Grunsky, Donald Grunsky, who's a lawyer in Watsonville. Every year he'd

say, "Gladdy, what humane bill do you want me to put in for you this year?" Senator Lagomarsino, who is now a congressman, was very humane and put in a lot of humane bills. I think I told you he was a friend of Reagan's and told me to go see Reagan, that I got a bill through that he couldn't have done. Did I tell you that?

REINIER: I'm not sure you did.

SARGENT: Well, what he did say was, "Go down to Reagan"--when he was president--"and tell him that you got this bill passed and worked harder on it than Reagan had in the fight he had getting the budget passed." I'm pretty sure I did that. Oh, I know what the bill was, and there's an odd story about that. The bill was to make it a felony for anybody to steal dogs for the laboratory, to sell them for vivisection.

REINIER: Yes, I have seen that bill.

SARGENT: And the odd part of it is, is that bill is what arrested Knudsen, who was the animal dealer that I bought the shelter from in Lathrop.

REINIER: I see.

SARGENT: And then Senator Nejedly was a good friend; he used to be district attorney of Contra Costa County. He put a lot of humane bills in. He's the one that put the bill in that any animal

that was tied up had to have a certain length of leash and food and water and shelter;<sup>1</sup> I think I told you about that bill. Then [State] Senator [James R.] Mills, who used to be head of the senate but now Roberti has his place, was very humane and did bills for me. He even used to have me share his office until someone complained.

REINIER: Why would they complain?

SARGENT: Well, I think it was [State] Senator [Ralph C.] Dills, who's now very humane and supportive; he wasn't so much then. The minute I heard of somebody complaining, I'd move to some other office. Really, they didn't have any right--just jealousy I guess--because I worked for free and paid my own expenses. Now every once in a while, and now that I have this bad leg, some of the senators allow somebody to drive me into the garage. They won't let them stay there, but drive on through and let me off so I don't have to walk that far--which is quite a walk for me--and I can go right to the elevator. Well, they were doing that. I'm going to ask now again; I have to ask someone from the Rules Committee if

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<sup>1</sup>S.B. 500, 1970 Reg. Sess., Cal. Stat., ch. 1112.

somebody can drive me in.

REINIER: Are there other women that have been supportive of you?

SARGENT: Yes. [State] Senator [Rebecca] Morgan wrote a note. She's been fairly humane and she's fairly new. And then [State Senator Marian] Bergeson is a new senator, but she was an assemblywoman. She tells me how she cares about animals. She was very humane at first, but if the Republicans get together and do a caucus, then she's gone against us. She's now a senator and she told me, "You know, Gladdy, I really care about the animals. I hate to hear about them suffering, but the trouble is as far as research animals. . . ." She let me know her brother is a researcher. So she hasn't been supportive there. We're having a job.

Just like this commentator on the radio, they won't believe that some of these animals are not anesthetized and just go through horrible suffering. I think I mentioned this researcher out at Cal [University of California] that gets all this money. Now, the taxpayers ought to know they are wasting money doing research over and over, poking little kittens' eyes out, sewing them together. And other eye



doctors write letters, which I have, that the research is useless. I care about the animals' suffering. But if other people don't, they at least ought to know that taxpayers' money is being wasted to do horrible things, to have animals suffer, just wasting their money for useless things. It just breaks my heart when I know that some of this suffering in the laboratories is useless.

These animals are suffering without anesthetics. The people are being lied to, being told that the animals are getting anesthetics. I just got the report. Just for these products that we could do without--oven cleaner and cosmetics--researchers are trying them out on animals with no anesthetics at all. And then they are trying to have the government lie about it in their records. We've got a bill in now that those products should be labeled.<sup>1</sup> We have a right to know whether animals have suffered in order to get these products. That's what we're trying to do.

REINIER: Gladly, as you look back over the years that you've spent lobbying for animals, what do you

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<sup>1</sup>A.B. 2461 1989-90 Reg. Sess. (1989).

consider your greatest accomplishment?

SARGENT: Well, one of the first things was the first humane slaughter bill because animals used to be hit over the head. Imagine cows coming through the shoots and being hit over the head, slipping, and then being hit several times. But now I'm hearing they just don't follow through with some of the laws. If we get them passed, I can't go around and see what all these slaughter houses do. If the government doesn't put up the money to implement the bills, then they're not implemented. So I wonder sometimes, with all the work I've done, all the years, the money I've spent for my own expenses, some of it, I guess, hasn't done too much good. I wonder sometimes how much good I have done. If I could just make everybody treat every living creature like they'd like to be treated. How can we do these horrible things and not expect somebody to do it to us, to mistreat us or not be kind? Why can't we see that?

REINIER: Don't you think there has been a shift in public opinion, that people are more aware of animal issues than they used to be?

SARGENT: Well, the only reason they are is because of some of the demonstrations, which I don't do.

People have broken into the laboratories. Did you know that now Stanford [University] is building a building underground? And Cal [University of California] is doing that? Now that is unbelievable. They don't want us to know what they're doing. I would like--and we voted to get it through--a bill for [research] alternatives. There are different ways they could do it. But as long as they get the animals cheap and they get the money to do it from the taxpayers, they're not trying the alternatives. These poor animals never see the light of day, in these little cages, never get out. We're not treating them right, and it's only because we've got the power over them. When you get some power over another person, or another animal, how you use that power is what kind of a person you are.

REINIER: As you look back over the years, is there anything that you would have done differently?

SARGENT: Oh, yes. I always feel that I could have done a better job or worked harder. The only way I console myself is I feel I did the best I could. I went up to Eureka, as I told you, and tried to stop the trapping of the California bears, which I did. But now they're doing it again. Now

they're killing off the bears and trapping them. So we're not that humane; we haven't progressed that much. While I may have helped some animals, I feel so many of them weren't helped. The state didn't follow through.

REINIER: Is it a matter of economics that the state doesn't spend the money on enforcement?

SARGENT: That's part of it. Money is wasted in so many different ways. I just heard again from some ship builder how much money is wasted in defense. They'll spend it for certain things. But when it comes to enforcement, there's not enough money spent on it.

REINIER: Are there agencies who should be checking up on these bills for you?

SARGENT: FDA [Federal Drug Administration] is supposed to check, but they don't have enough money or enough people to do the whole job. The University of California has been cited twice for inhumaneness. But they don't have enough people to go around and check. They claim on the humane slaughter bill that they don't have the men to go around and check the slaughter houses. And then the press says there is payola; some of them are paid off not to divulge what is happening. And the poor animals can't

speak for themselves.

REINIER: Gladdy, you certainly have become a beloved institution in Sacramento. That's certainly been one outcome of your activities up there.

SARGENT: Of course, most of the men that have known me from the beginning are no longer there. So, I have to be meeting new people, and I'm sorry to say that the younger people don't seem as humane. Whether, because I've gotten older, I don't reach them as well, I don't know. There's always exceptions, of course, but I'm just amazed that with all the help and all the humane people now, we're not getting bills passed as much as I did all by myself years ago. I'm not for vandalism or for breaking in [laboratories], but at the same time I realize I'm not brave enough to do it. And I have to commend the people that are brave enough to put their life on the line. I'm still not for breaking in and vandalism and fires or anything like that. But, if they didn't break into the labs, we wouldn't know because the public is not aware of what goes on.

  When they have tours and know ahead of time, you don't see the terrible things they do to these animals. I have a contact with one of

the head men at the University of California [Los Angeles], and he made arrangements for me to go in and see some of the experimentation. Do you think they showed it to me when I got there? They had tea laid out for me. And the man has recently come to Sacramento. I didn't recognize him. He said, "Gladdy, I guess you don't remember me, but I'm the one that had tea for you." Then he showed me the poor cats in the cages--not the dogs--but they weren't operated on yet; they were waiting. I told you that, didn't I?

REINIER: No.

SARGENT: Well, that was quite a story.

REINIER: Let's hear it.

SARGENT: They took me in to see the cats that were waiting to go for vivisection. And one of them was a beautiful persian. And I thought, golly, if somebody deserted that, what would they do with a plain one, wild kitties that are all over the place. So I said, "I'd like to have the cat." So he said I could have it. And I'll never forget, there was a poor little short haired, black and white one, kind of indiscriminate, in the next cage. If any animal spoke to get himself out of there, he did. He

pulled on me, he pulled my hair, he pulled my dress until I said I had to take him. So I took ten of them. I wanted them spayed and altered and to have their shots. So they sent me ten of them. I had to feed and take care of them. I kept that black and white one until he died.

REINIER: Did you keep them here at the house?

SARGENT: Yes. I kept them here out at my lathe house and hot house. And then they sent me a bill for all the spaying and the shipment and the shots! I sent it back to them, and I never paid for it. Recently that same man was up in Sacramento to get votes against us, on the side of the university and the laboratories. He introduced himself to me.

And the Stanford president has been up there lobbying. I think I told you he said, "You're not hearing from the people that are benefiting from the research, those people that are crippled and the cancer patients." So I went right up and said, "Well, I'm one of the people that you said are not represented. I've had a cancer operation." But he couldn't answer that.

REINIER: When did you have that operation?

SARGENT: Right after my husband died--can you imagine?--

I'd never been sick. I was at a party with a boyfriend of mine and I started coughing. I don't think that had anything to do with the cancer, but I had quite a coughing spell. The next morning he brought another girl that was helping me and they decided to take me to emergency. I didn't want to go but they took me because of the cough and the doctors examined me--I'm not good at going to doctors--and decided they wanted to keep me overnight. The next morning, here I am all alone. They talk about people getting the blow with their family around; here I was all alone. My husband had just died, I didn't know what it was to be sick, and in walks this doctor I've never seen and tells me, sorry, I have cancer of the colon. And they talk about the blow. So I said, "Well, just let me die." I thought I was going to die. But the doctor operated and as far as I know, I've had no repercussion.

REINIER: Excellent. No more reoccurrence.

SARGENT: No.

REINIER: Excellent.

SARGENT: And a neighbor here, a gentleman I didn't know before, had the same thing. He lives a little way down the street and he's tried to be



friendly with me since. He was in the hospital for the same thing and with the same doctor. And he's come by to tell me that he is all cured.

REINIER: Well, excellent. You know, Gladdy, you've been saying repeatedly that the young people aren't as humane. Why is that?

SARGENT: Well, I think it's our time. We tell them to go to the university, to get an education and go out and make some money, get a big job. That's all we seem to tell them. I don't hear people tell them to be kind, to donate to the homeless, or make some money to help others, or do a good job. It's go out and make some money.

REINIER: So it's really been the temper of the times in the 1980s?

SARGENT: A professor up at the University [of California] at Davis, one of the top professors, I heard he tells the graduating class, if you don't make a certain amount of money as a veterinarian the first year, you're not successful. And another one--I don't know whether you saw that or not--one of the top professors, because I was told he writes some very good books, wrote an article in The [San Francisco] Chronicle--I got a copy, if I can find it--that we shouldn't do all this

talk for the animals. That we should eat them.

REINIER: Oh my!

SARGENT: I've got the article. It says the Asians eat dogs and that's what we should do, and put out some recipes for it. That's one of your top professors at the University of California at Davis.

REINIER: In the veterinary school?

SARGENT: Yes.

REINIER: Well, I was going to ask you, do veterinarians support your issues?

SARGENT: No, a lot of them don't. They're just like the rest of the people; there are some humane and some inhumane. I'm amazed that they're veterinarians because they've come up against our bills. The Veterinarian Association as a whole does not support us--maybe once in a while on a bill--they're usually against us.

REINIER: Why?

SARGENT: They put in bills against us. They're in with the Health Department and the doctors.

REINIER: Do the vets have a pretty strong lobby in Sacramento?

SARGENT: Well, I don't want to say it's too strong. They do have a paid lobbyist; he isn't one of the strongest ones. One of the men that used to

represent them, every time he sees me--he's my friend now--he says, "Gladdy I quit because I couldn't go up against you. I knew you were right." I used to usually win against him.

REINIER: Why were the veterinarians against your bills?

SARGENT: They're just not for the animals. It's a crime that they're in the business and they're not fighting for the animals.

REINIER: I noticed, for example, that [State] Senator Walter [W.] Stiern was a vet, isn't that right?

SARGENT: He voted against most of our bills.

REINIER: He did.

SARGENT: And he had the nerve. . . . I'm glad you mentioned his name because when I brought that article up about the professor at the University [of California] at Davis--what he wrote about eating them--Walter Stiern was appalled at that, even though he's usually against us. He said, "Gladdy, he's one of the most prestigious professors, writing some of the most prestigious books." So it wasn't just someone lower on the escalade.

Stiern usually voted against us; he was from Bakersfield, which is not too humane. I know people down there--one of the men down there sends me roses all the time--but a lot of

people down there are from the farming industry and they are not for the animals. The new assemblyman, [Assemblyman Trice] Harvey, I got to vote for my puppy mill bill by just keeping after and after him in committee. When it went to assembly floor, he was against the bill. And so they are usually not humane, although I get invited to their parties--every other year they have a party in Sacramento--and they get up and say something nice about me. Their senator--I can't think of his name--usually votes against me even though his son played football for the Raiders. But he's usually against us, puts in bills against us, even though he seems to like me.

REINIER: So Walter Stiern. . . .

SARGENT: Walter Stiern used to say, "You don't fight for the cows." This is the way he used to talk. "On the way up to the legislature from Bakersfield I see them out in the field down in the mud. There are others down in the mud and you don't do anything about that." Quite often your opposition, whatever you're doing, you ought to be doing something else. So I said, "All right, you put in a bill or show me what to put in. And let's work on it." But he never

did it. Finally, one time I remember I had Virginia [Handly] with me. We went in the office and he brought it up again; we had asked him to vote for something else. So I literally put him in a corner. I said, "I'll put you in the corner. I'm going to put you right in the corner of your office." We practically pushed him into the corner and said, "All right, what bill do you want to put in to help those cows out in the mud?" But he never did it. And now he died.

REINIER: Yes, I know.

SARGENT: And when he had just resigned. He was just giving up. He wasn't going to run again, but he did. And then right after that he died. He told us that he was going back to Bakersfield to do some research on the animals. But he didn't do it; I don't know whether he started it or not.

REINIER: What kind of research?

SARGENT: Well, it would be against the animals. Research on the poor dogs and cats.

REINIER: Against?

SARGENT: Yes. He wasn't that humane. The one thing he seemed to be for was the burros; he liked burros. That's the one bill he put in, to

protect burros. I don't know why it was just burros. But on other things he usually voted against us. Very much against us.

REINIER: Gladly, you've had the opportunity to observe a lot of the other lobbyists through the years. What are some of your impressions of other lobbyists?

SARGENT: Well, of course, recently there are quite a few women lobbyists. It used to be practically all men, mostly all men. And the women lobbyists don't seem to speak to me.

[End Tape 5, Side A]

[Begin Tape 5, Side B]

REINIER: Gladly, why don't the women lobbyists speak to you?

SARGENT: Well, it may be partly my fault. I don't have time to find out who they are, stop in the halls. Women are mostly newer, you know. Lately there seems to be quite a few of them, where there were hardly any before. The men have been around longer and know me and stop and talk with me. But I can't know all their names and what they do. It seems that most of them are influenced. . . . Of course, I know a lot of them give big money and they make big money. I saw this recent big article, two pages in the

Sacramento Bee just last year. I don't know if you saw that publicity or not . . .

REINIER: . . . I did see it . . .

SARGENT: . . . They not only make big money, and then admit that they get their clients to give money to the legislators, and their expenses--they listed some of the biggest and the big money they make--but then they were complaining that the legislators were asking for more money.

REINIER: Uh, huh.

SARGENT: I guess you saw that picture of me just sitting there yawning--I didn't know they took the picture--waiting for a bill to come up. It didn't say that I didn't get paid, but, of course, it intimated that. I don't know whether people realized that or not. I've seen the men lobbyists in action, and a lot of them have influence. I don't know whether it's influence because they give money, which I don't do, and can't do, because I'm working for free and pay my own expenses. I can't take it out of Pets & Pals because there is only a percentage that we can use to do lobbying. Otherwise we're tax exempt, and we can't take any big money.

But, I think that's one thing that's been in my favor over the years. I don't think the

new lobbyists realize or pay attention--and that's part of the trouble--but the original men know that when I get up there and speak, no one is telling me what to say. I'm not saying it like these other people do. They may not mean it at all, but they're being paid to represent someone. They may be not doing the right thing at all, but they're being paid to do what they do. And they know that no one is paying me. I'm there because I care. I'm there to protect the animals that can't pay me because I believe with all my heart that I'm doing this because they need me and it's the truth. That's how I feel.

REINIER: Do you think the new women lobbyists employ different tactics than you've used through the years?

SARGENT: Oh, definitely. They're paid people, practically all. There has never been anybody like me up there. They might come for one thing that they believe in, or come one time on one bill, but there is no one working for free that has done it all the years that I've worked, or any amount of time. They're paid lobbyists. I could have been a paid lobbyist, representing different people.



REINIER: Have jobs been offered to you?

SARGENT: Yes, several times. But they know that no man is going to pay me or buy me off. Another article on the lobbyists a while back had pictures of some of the men--I don't know whether they worked entirely for free--who were representing some of the charities and some of the consumer bills. They wanted a picture of me, but I didn't get the picture taken. But in the article--I was amazed--I don't know what reporter wrote it, but he had it pretty well down. He said, "Gladdy Sargent lobbies on the strength of her personality. . . ." Did you see that?

REINIER: I did see that.

SARGENT: And that I used compliments and good humored. . .  
. . . What was it now? Good humored . . .

REINIER: . . . Threats! That's what it was . . .

SARGENT: . . . Threats. I know that you can't threaten the men, really threaten them. They just react against that. But they said I did it with good humored threats. I guess that is all right. And I guess that's right. And I compliment them.

REINIER: You've relied on your charm, your personality, and your style a great deal through the years.

Do the new women lobbyists do that also?

SARGENT: No, I don't think so. I think some of the younger women use their personality--it's just a question of age, maybe--but otherwise, I don't think so. I don't think anyone lobbies like I do. That's what everybody has said, anybody that has gone around with me. And one of the men that is a lobbyist for the schools--his name is [ ] Collins, up in Sacramento for, I think, the junior college up there--went around with me one time. He said, "I never heard of anybody lobbying like you do." The way I talk to the men and that. And then I write them little love notes all the time. If I know them very well, I sign it "love." I write them little notes and I can tell it gets to them. The secretaries are nearly all my friends and they see that the notes are on top.

Did I tell you about the time that we put one of the notes on the chair on a spindle? I talk to everybody, so all the elevator girls and even the man that runs the elevators, they all give me a great greeting. And I'm friendly with the secretaries; most of them are for the animals. I used to go myself and see all eighty assemblymen and all forty senators, sometimes

more than once on particular bill. And if I'd get there too late, and the office was closed, I'd put the notes under the door. Then I got friendly with the people that clean so they wouldn't throw my notes away. I'd ask secretaries to put my note right on top in front of the legislator's nose. And one night I was putting it under [State] Senator [Robert B.] Presley's door, and I saw the cleaners down at the end of the hall. I said, "Have you cleaned this office yet?" Did I tell you this?

REINIER: No.

SARGENT: And they said, "Oh yes, we've already done it." So I said, "Then it's all right for me to put it under the door. You won't be going in and throwing it away." "Just a minute," they said, "we'll help you." So they came down and opened the door for me, which they're not supposed to do. And I said, "I want to go in his office and put it right on top of everything so he'll be sure and see it." And the girl said, "Oh, this is better." She put it on a real sharp spindle and put it on his chair.

REINIER: [Laughter] He couldn't miss that.

SARGENT: Well, those are some of the things I get them to do.

REINIER: Oh, that's great.

SARGENT: So, I really made friends. Senator Diane Watson not only sent flowers but called, and she said that I was missed more walking those halls than anybody.

REINIER: I'm sure that's true.

SARGENT: So, that was nice. So when I go up and down the halls, there are people talking to me; I know they're lobbyists. But I notice a lot of the women don't bother. Of course, I can't say it's just their fault. I haven't bothered with them. I haven't got time to. When I'm up there, I make every minute count. The humane people go up there and they work on one bill and then they stand around. I know some of them don't bother with me or even like me because I don't have time to do that. I don't go up there to get on the phone, or just to talk to a bunch of people. I make every minute count to try to see legislators.

REINIER: Do you spend much time, then, making friends with other lobbyists?

SARGENT: No. They usually come to me. They say Gladly does things that they can't do, that I get by with murder. Sometimes I walk into the hearings and the chairman just stops and says, "What are

you here for, Gladdy?" or makes some comment. I know that Senator Richardson is so much against us, against being for the animals. He still says he likes me. I told you that, didn't I? He ended the article by saying, "Well, I can't help but admire her. I really do like her because she stands for something. Not many people up here do." He was against most of my legislation. He's the big white hunter, you know, that killed the animal and put my head on the wall.

REINIER: Oh, yes!

SARGENT: I remember going into one committee and [State] Senator [Milton] Marks, who's a very good friend, had a bill I didn't like. It wasn't too bad; I was just going to ask for an amendment on it, but I got there too late. I got in there and I sat right in the front where I'm not supposed to. That's for the senators and assemblymen, but I sit up there. And I just sat there waiting to see whether they'd already done it or not. Senator Richardson comes right down from the committee, and says, "Well, Gladdy!" Just yells right out in front of everybody, "Gladdy,"--and they don't do this with anybody else--"Senator Marks, your friend Marks"--and he

was using it against him--"put in a bill, and he shouldn't have put that bill in, Gladdy." He said, "You should have been here. The bill passed and it's against the animals." And then I just called out--nobody's supposed to do this while they're having their meeting--"Well, I came to get an amendment on it. I'll have to get it amended." And poor Marks is sitting there getting all red. But that's the kind of thing that goes on. And so, when I walk in some of the meetings, I can see some of the other lobbyists there saying, "Here she is," or "She's going to get special attention." Or I say something to them and they make some remarks. Like on the lion bill, now they're going to hunt the poor lions.

REINIER: The mountain lions?

SARGENT: Yes. The mountain lions. And I've been against that right along. There comes a lobbyist for the Sierra Club that's supposed to be on our side. We don't need him to go up there and say he doesn't care one way or another. That's no good. And that's what he did. So I walked right down to him sitting there and I said to him, "You know, we need you like we need a hole in the head." He hasn't talked to me since and

I haven't talked to him.

Oh yes, he has! I forgot. Wait, you won't believe this. That was the last thing I said to him. I'm over at the convalescent home and he walks in--I didn't recognize him--with a knapsack on his back. I thought, "Who's this?" I'd gone on talking to someone else. He said, "I'm here to see you, Gladdy." And that's who it turns out to be.

REINIER: Well isn't that nice? [Laughter]

SARGENT: I just remembered that. I thought I hadn't seen him since I told him that I needed him like a hole in my head.

REINIER: Well, he didn't seem to hold it against you.

SARGENT: Well, he knows that I'm right. As I say, people go up there; sometimes that room's been filled. When the AARP [American Association of Retired Persons] people wanted a bill for the older people on social security, they filled the place. But that's something for themselves. Or somebody might come up on one bill that's a bill for other people, a children's hospital or something. But that's all. You don't see anybody coming up all these years and working for free like I've done. They say there's never been anybody like me up there.

And I really believe that I'm doing it because I can't help myself. These animals need me so. They're being so mistreated; its so unfair when they love you. Now look at my dog and these two cats. If all people, older people like me and people who are bedridden, would get animals--and it does a lot for them--you wouldn't have so many sick animals if they had companionship. But what happens when people die? The animals go to the pound and then they're sent to the laboratory. That's not fair.

REINIER: Have you provided for your animals in your will?

SARGENT: Oh, yes. They've got to come right away.

Either they give them a good home or take over this house--Pets & Pals is being left the house  
. . .

REINIER: . . . I see . . .

SARGENT: . . . and stay here and take care of them. Or the animals have to be taken right to a vet and my business manager, who's the treasurer of Pets & Pals, will stay with them and see that they are humanely put to sleep.

REINIER: Does Pets & Pals have a plan for use of the house?

SARGENT: Oh, yes. If they've got somebody that will stay



here and take care of the animals; otherwise it will be sold, and the money go to the shelter. But I don't want them even to go up to the shelter up at Stockton--even though it is a finely run shelter--and I don't know what happens to them.

REINIER: So you want someone to stay here and take care of these animals?

SARGENT: Yes, or have them humanely put to sleep if they sell the house. Because it isn't fair that these animals are loved and then all of a sudden they are in a little cage. Nobody's telling them why. And if they go to a laboratory, they're given every disease to die, which is so unfair. These experiments say, "Oh, well, what's the difference? The pounds are having to put them to sleep if they don't find a home." Well, we all have to die but we don't want to die in agony. Why should they have to have every disease and go through agony when they can't understand why their master and mistress are gone, why they're in this small cage? You know some of them won't even go to the bathroom in that cage because they've been taught not to do it? Is that fair to them? I just suffer. Every time I hear about an animal suffering or a

child suffering, somebody who can't speak for themselves, I just suffer with them. I'm sorry for everybody, but at least they won't let a child die in the streets, at least they're not supposed to.

Just the other day, this girl called me and said, "Gladdy, in the pouring rain there was this part-German Shepherd trying to get out of the rain and it was injured." She should have taken it home and called the pound. But she called the pound and left it out there and never knew whether the pound did anything for it. People don't use their heads. The poor animals, they're thrown out in the street. It's just unbelievable.

REINIER: Gladdy, did you ever consider running for political office?

SARGENT: I should have done that. I made a big mistake. If I had to do over, that's what I would do.

REINIER: Really?

SARGENT: I'd like to be president of this United States. Somebody said "Gladdy,"--everybody I've told what I would do--"I'd vote for you, but you wouldn't last." And I said, "Well, maybe I'd be able to do a little bit before they kill me off."

REINIER: Why wouldn't you last?

SARGENT: Because of my ideas they said there would be somebody to assassinate me. I guess they would.

REINIER: Your ideas are so radical?

SARGENT: Well, no, but just because of what I believe in. I wouldn't let somebody pay me off.

REINIER: Would you have liked to have been a member of the legislature?

SARGENT: Yes, now that I know. You see, I didn't know what it was like. And now I know what I turned down. I was a beautiful woman and I turned down all kinds of opportunities. One of them was to be the greeter for the city of Oakland.

REINIER: Oh, really?

SARGENT: They offered me that, and I loved greeting people. That's what I was offered, in the hotel business or selling real estate. That's the thing I should have been doing instead of helping my husband in his office doing accounting. And then have him leave the business to the employees and nothing for me.

REINIER: Gladdy, you may not call yourself a feminist, but you sound a little bit like a feminist to me.

SARGENT: I guess I am, but I didn't know I was.

[Laughter] Of course, when I was real young we

didn't talk about feminists.

REINIER: No.

SARGENT: I can remember the feminist movement, but it was removed from me. It wasn't down where I lived in Burlingame.

REINIER: Do you remember when women got the vote?

SARGENT: Yes, I can remember that. And I remember feminists talking about marching on Washington. But the thing is, I'm not for everything they're for. But I am for equal pay for equal work. Do you consider yourself a feminist?

REINIER: Sure, but I'm not supposed to talk on the tape.  
[Laughter]

SARGENT: [Laughter] As to what you are, huh?

REINIER: No. [Laughter]

SARGENT: I didn't realize we were still on the tape.

REINIER: Gladdy, do you have any advice for other women who might want to try lobbying?

SARGENT: Well, several times people have come up from Los Angeles--mostly though, men--saying that someone said I could teach them to be a lobbyist. I don't think that you can teach people. You can teach people technique, but they've got to like people, have a good personality, and like to ask for votes. Now if young women are very good looking, that helps some. I think when I first

went up there, I was real good looking, but I didn't go up real young.

REINIER: You were in your fifties when you started.

SARGENT: Yes. But I was good looking and dressed well. You've got to have a likable personality and like people, and like to ask for votes. And not mind being up there speaking in front of the committees. And not mind being rebuffed by some of them because they've got the votes. But I like asking men for money or asking them for votes. I enjoy it. And I really believe in what I'm doing and I feel I'm needed or I wouldn't be continuing.

REINIER: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

SARGENT: Well, I'm just sorry that I wasn't prepared enough to go through my files and be really prepared to speak. I've just been speaking off the top of my head and didn't have any notes.

REINIER: That's all right. That's really what oral history is.

SARGENT: I was going to get a lot of notes ready because so many people said I should write a book. Every time I take a trip with anyone or talk with anybody in a car, every time we go to Sacramento, I think of something. And they say that ought to go in the book. Then I think I'll

remember, but I don't remember. So I should be getting that together.

Virginia Handly, who represents Fund for Animals in San Francisco, has been getting together a play. She is in a play now and has done some comedy work, and is very interested in that. She's been trying to get a play written about me lobbying in Sacramento. She is the one who knew that I was going to be honored on the senate floor when I didn't know it. I told you that was a big surprise. I was the only lobbyist that's been honored on the senate podium. I thought I'd tell Willie Brown that and maybe he ought to do it on the assembly floor.

REINIER: You must have felt very pleased when you walked up to the podium to be honored.

SARGENT: Yes. It was a real surprise. But she knew about it and really should have let my friends know. They said that when that happens, your friends should be there, and you usually have a champagne party. When anybody's ever been honored up there, not the lobbyists, but anybody at all, usually you have a group in the audience. My friends didn't know about that because it was a surprise to me. And there was

nobody who arranged for my friends to be there.

REINIER: Did that happen just once?

SARGENT: Yes.

REINIER: I see another resolution that was passed in 1981.

SARGENT: Oh, quite a few resolutions have been passed about me. There have been resolutions and honors. Did you see that one up on the wall that I'm the lobbyist toughest to turn down? Did you see that barracuda award?

REINIER: No. I didn't see that. What is that?

SARGENT: It's right on the wall there. See the wooden plaque there? It says "The Barracuda Award." It says I'm the lobbyist toughest to turn down.

REINIER: Who gave that to you?

SARGENT: Well, his name's up there. He became a congressman. I think he's just been defeated.

REINIER: [Reading plaque] 1982. Assemblyman [Ernest L.] Ernie Konnyu. Well, marvelous!

SARGENT: He's been a congressman since then. Right after that until he just got defeated, I understand. A lot of congressman know me that have been in Sacramento. Incidentally, Senator Wilson's going to run for governor.

REINIER: Yes.

SARGENT: And I don't want him.

REINIER: Why not?

SARGENT: Well, he's not humane. Deukmejian was mentioning that he was going to be for him because Deukmejian isn't going to run again. And Wilson's going to run. I think the Attorney General is going to run. I'd be more for him. [Attorney General John] Van de Kamp is more humane.

REINIER: Why is Wilson not humane?

SARGENT: Well, when he was an assemblyman, he used to vote for my bills. Then he became mayor of San Diego. And I was told that in order to build up San Diego he wooed a lot of the experimenters to come down there, and do experimentation, a lot of different companies in chemicals, etc. So since then he hasn't been so humane. And now he's a senator in Washington, and he has not been humane with bills.

REINIER: He hasn't supported humane bills.

SARGENT: But he was friendly to me when he was in the assembly. And I have seen him once or twice since. He entertained the Raiders when I was back in Washington--I think I mentioned that--but I didn't get to see him personally.

REINIER: Well, Gladdy, now that you're almost ninety years old--not quite ninety yet, but almost



ninety years old--what are your plans for the future?

SARGENT: Well, I am just going to go on lobbying, hoping I'll get some more bills through, and go on with my Pets & Pals.

REINIER: Just keep on doing what you're doing now.

SARGENT: If I can get around and still do it. I hate to go up there with the walker, but I guess I will. That might get me more sympathy, don't you think?

REINIER: I think so.

SARGENT: When I saw Willie Brown at a party, he came over; in fact, he got down on his knees. I told him I was so disappointed; I had just lost the puppy mill bill. And he said, "Gladdy, we did that"--see, he had helped me get it off the assembly floor, and then I lost it at the last minute--"so you won't retire and you'll come back." And now I've got the bill again. So I've got to go up there, I guess, and see that it gets through.

REINIER: I think you do.

SARGENT: There are some other bills there I should go against. I don't know just how much I'll be able to do. I've been real optimistic until now. I've been getting a little discouraged

because it's been so long since December 15 when I fell.

REINIER: That's right; you've been sick a while.

SARGENT: That's three months, more than three months, isn't it? All during the holidays and Superbowl . . . .

REINIER: Gladdy, we really didn't spend time on the tape talking about the Raiders. How did you happen to become one of the owners of the Raiders football team?

SARGENT: I'm the only woman they've let stay in.

REINIER: The only woman they've let stay in? What happened to the others?

SARGENT: Well, if your husband dies. . . . There was one woman here a few doors from me whose husband was one of the minority owners, and the minute he died the attorneys were in touch with her to buy out her interests.

REINIER: Oh, really?

SARGENT: In other words, most of the heirs, the other owners buy out. That's what we've been doing. Nobody else has been able to buy in. We were around twenty-five or so, and we're down to nine. I'm the only woman because I got in touch with Al Davis [Raiders manager] right away and told him I wanted to stay in. The other owners

don't know just how I did that. I can see that they don't want a whole bunch of wives telling them what to do. I'm a minority partner. But most of them are because in order to get Al Davis back to run the team we all had to give him part of our partnership.

REINIER: Oh, I see. The Raiders have been a big part of your life in recent years, haven't they?

SARGENT: Well, it's been fun. I haven't made money on it, but it has been fun. I've gotten to meet a lot of wealthy men throughout the country that own the teams. I've been friendly with Baron Hilton and a lot of the other owners. Bud Adams that owns the Houston Oilers is going to come out here when they play the Raiders here in Oakland, did you know? So I've got to get in touch with him for tickets. Most all the other owners--[Joseph] Robey that owns the Miami Dolphins--were all friends of mine. But most of the teams have been sold now. So I've got to meet new owners. The New Orleans Saints has been sold; three brothers own that now. They're the big bankers, I understand, in New Orleans. So I've met them and been at their box, but I haven't met the new owner of the Denver team.

REINIER: The Denver Broncos.

SARGENT: Yes. There are new owners there. There are new owners of the Dallas Cowboys. [Clint] Murcheson was a friend of mine, and he died. [Joseph] Robey is still owner of the Miami Dolphins, but his partner was a closer friend of mine and he died, one of the other owners.

REINIER: Do you remember his name?

SARGENT: No. I can't remember his name. He entertained me in Miami. I told you, didn't I, about the place he had, these houses that are way out in the ocean?

REINIER: No.

SARGENT: Well, that was a real story. I thought I told you about that. The first time I went to Miami I had a letter to this man. He had a beautiful home just out of Miami, down by the yacht club. I went to a party there. Then he invited me to this house he had way out in the ocean on stilts. You went out in real deep water, out in a speed boat. And when you got out there, there were a few houses. I thought they must be on a reef, like in Honolulu, or on an island. But, no, all of a sudden the water got shallow and there stood this house by itself on stilts. I understood there were a few other houses but they weren't all together like on an island.

They were scattered. He just kept the place--I forget what he called it--for entertainment. He took a band out and caterers, and had this big party.

REINIER: My goodness sakes.

SARGENT: There were quite a few people there and I had some extra tickets for the Superbowl. The men were offering me good money for them. The friend I had who introduced me to this man--he has since died--he was quite the boy around San Francisco. He was a former executive of IBM [International Business Machines Inc.] and was quite the ladies man. He just recently died.

REINIER: What was his name?

SARGENT: I can't think of his name. I've got to look that up. I just can't think of it. Anyway, he came down from San Francisco. I had been there a few days. I said, "Shall I sell these tickets to different people?" He said, "No, Gladdy, wait and get more money for them than that." So I stood on the deck and decided to auction them off. I like to auction. I had the two tickets in my hand and I was auctioning them, just getting big money for them, and they blew overboard. [Laughter] So I didn't get anything for the tickets.

REINIER: Oh, for heaven's sakes.

SARGENT: So I was having a hard job. I was having tickets and I was always either losing money or not getting any money for them. And I had to pay for them. That was one of the first Superbowls I went to, in Miami. I made a lot of friends down there. That's the first party I went to of Baron Hilton's. Now, no matter where the Superbowl is, the morning of the game Baron Hilton gives a party in one of his hotels. He had just taken over the Fountainbleu in Miami. I had been to Miami once before with my husband. When we were there, the Fountainbleu, this gorgeous hotel, was just built. Did I tell you that story?

REINIER: No.

SARGENT: My husband said, "I've got a surprise for you." He took me there this one night and who was there--I can't remember this fellow's name, isn't this awful?--one of the top impersonators in the country. We had met him once before in Las Vegas! He was entertaining in Las Vegas at the Frontier Hotel--the Frontier was the hotel then--where we were staying. So my husband took me to that show. The next day the impersonator and the people who had been in the show were at

the pool. I had never met him, but I just went around introducing everybody and we became friends. And while we were at the opening of the Fountainbleu, he was the headliner. And my husband didn't tell me. He had read it; so he said, "I've got a surprise for you." He took me that night to the Fountainbleu, this gorgeous hotel. . . . Have you been there?

REINIER: No.

SARGENT: Marble, just gorgeous. That was the surprise. When the impersonator found out I was in the audience, he introduced me. Then he came out for one of my first parties for Pets & Pals, called "Putting on the Dog." I had it at one of the big hotels downtown. And he came over even though his manager didn't want him to--he was appearing in San Francisco--and walked a dog with the models down the runway for me. And he introduced me that night at the Fountainbleu.

One of the first parties I went to when my husband was gone and I was an owner of the Raiders was also at the Fountainbleu; Hilton had taken it over. Somebody else had bought the hotel and just milked it. It was a big scandal; he disappeared with the money. Then a couple that I had met, bankers, took it over and didn't

really know how to run a hotel. So Hilton bought it. When I went the first time alone with the Raiders to Miami, Hilton had that hotel. I remember that was the first big party. Since then I have gone to all his parties in Detroit, in Los Angeles, here in San Francisco, and down again in Miami.

REINIER: Do you go to the Superbowl every year?

SARGENT: I did every year until this year. This year I missed it. It was at the Fountainbleu again because Hilton still has that hotel.

REINIER: Gladdy, you've really had a lot of fun through the years, with the Raiders or in the legislature.

SARGENT: Yes. I've had a lot of parties at the legislature.

REINIER: You've had a lot of parties up there?

SARGENT: Well, the Raiders had some beautiful parties for several years; I think it was about three years.

REINIER: Oh, really.

SARGENT: I've helped them play hostess. And then I've been entertained at a lot of the legislative parties, going to a lot of their fundraisers without paying much money.

REINIER: How do you get to go without paying money?

SARGENT: Well, I just tell them I'm not paid. Or the



secretaries invite me. Some of the legislators have taken me to dinners and lunches. Other lobbyists are paying for it. So I get invited to a lot of the parties. I take Virginia with me.

REINIER: Gladdy, it's really been fun talking to you. I've enjoyed it a lot.

SARGENT: I've enjoyed it.

REINIER: Thanks a lot for participating in this with us.

SARGENT: I'm sorry though, I should have been more prepared for it.

REINIER: Well, if you like, we can come back and do another tape.

SARGENT: OK.

REINIER: OK.

SARGENT: Would you want to spend the time?

REINIER: I'd love to spend the time.

SARGENT: Well, then what I'll do is gradually go through the boxes and get some stuff together and then see what you're particularly interested in.

REINIER: OK, great.

SARGENT: Does it matter how long it takes?

REINIER: No. Not at all.

SARGENT: You're not talking about retiring yet, huh?

REINIER: No, not yet. So, thanks a lot, and we'll be back in touch.

[End Tape 5, Side B]